Oakwood mutineer escapes from naval camp in Cavite

Story below, Col. 3

Erap says Reyes house worth at least P50M

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

By Armand Nocum

TAKE it from deposed President Joseph Estrada. He should know.

Estrada, who scandalized the nation by building multimillion-peso mansions

ERAP/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Trillanes co-owner of research, polling firm

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO leaders of the July 27 mutiny are co-owners of a research and polling firm that tried to project Sen. Gregorio Honasan as a "winnable" contender for vice president in its latest survey of candidates for the 2004 elections, according to military intelligence sources.

TRILLANES/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, August 14, 2003 ★★ 52 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 247 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Mutiny 'spontaneous'

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THIS STOLEN shot, according to PDI photo consultant Boy Cabrido, is authentic possibly shot by a mobile phone camera. But the questionable part is the harsh shadow on Honasan's left side when there's a strong source of light in the room.

Palace proof: Honasan-Trillanes photos

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

TWO photographs purportedly showing Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV standing before the Magdalo and Philippine flags are proof that the two took part in a blood compact of coup plotters a month before the Oakwood incident, Malacañang said yesterday.

Col. Delfin Bangit, Presidential Security Group chief, presented the photographs at a press conference in Malacañang to counter Trillanes' claim at the Feliciano Commission that he did not take part in the blood compact.

Honasan also denied that he took part in the blood compact, saying that the pic-

PALACE/ A18

Experts' opinion differ on photos' authenticity

By JV Rufino, *INQ7.net*

DIGITAL imaging experts and the INQUIRER photo consultant Boy Cabrido gave differing opinions on the authenticity of the two photos which the Palace claims show Sen. Gregorio Honasan with the July 27 mutineers.

Two experts say the photos had been manipulated; Cabrido and another expert say there's the "possibility" that are no manipulations.

The photos of the alleged Honasan-Trillanes meeting with the Magdalo group in an undisclosed place reportedly happened on June 13.

Shown electronic copies of the images forwarded by Palace sources, a graphic artist at one of Manila's top web design firms said the blurry images, which show Honasan with his back to the camera speaking with several men in a room, appeared to have been altered in Adobe Photoshop, an industry standard image-editing program.

"I don't trust it," said the designer who asked not to be identified.

EXPERTS'/ A18

Mutineers' spokesperson clears Honasan, Estrada

By TJ Burgonio

"IT WAS a spontaneous display of our grievances."

So did Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV describe yesterday the July 27 short-lived mutiny at a hearing of the Feliciano Commission in Camp Aguinaldo, belying reports that the coup was part of a "grand design to topple the government."

In his first public appearance since the mutiny, the clean-shaven Trillanes also said that Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and President Joseph Estrada had no hand in the failed coup.

Clad in a white Navy uniform, the 32-year-old officer maintained that he and his fellow officers were merely expressing their disgust over military irregularities and were not planning to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo or install a 15-man junta.

"The Oakwood incident was a spontaneous display of our grievances; we express our message directly to the people," he said at the hearing held at the Patio restaurant of the AFP Officers' Club.

Trillanes hinted that their calls for the resignation of the President, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and then military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus at the height of the mutiny were not serious.

"Just like all demonstrations—like from the Left—where they demand the resign-all . . . it was an expression of disgust because of the (Operation) Green Base thing, the conspiracy..." he said.

"But since these people were responsi-

MUTINY/ A18

NAVY LT. (S.G.) TRILLANES: Explosive revelations including a Palace coup to justify granting of emergency powers to President Macapagal. ERNIE SARMIENTO

'I was ordered to bomb mosque'

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

HIS COMMANDING officer ordered him to throw a grenade at a mosque in Mindanao last April but he refused saying the Muslims in the mosque "were not the enemy."

This was the testimony before the Feliciano Commission of one of the core members of the July 27 mutineers, Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo.

Other highlights of his testimony yesterday:

- Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former military intelligence chief was seen by another officer during the bombing of the Sasa Wharf in Davao City, early this year.
- On at least 15 occasions, his wounded men died in the field because they could not be airlifted as the choppers were being used by generals.
- Proposed a battlefront-oriented system in the Armed Forces.

Testifying at the Commission's hearing in Camp Aguinaldo, Maestrecampo, who was assigned in the

'I WAS/ A19

JOAN BONDOC

ARMY CAPT. Milo Maestrecampo in a huddle with his lawyers Homobono Adaza (right) and Roel Pulido during the Feliciano Commission hearings.

'She berated me...she kept yakking'

By Volt Contreras and Juliet Labog-Javellana

"SHE berated me the whole time. She never gave me a chance . . . She kept yakking and yakking."

In his first public appearance since the July 27 mutiny, detained Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV recounted how "arrogant" his commander in chief was when he tried to air alleged anomalies in the military, gripes he and fellow young officers would later drum up during the Makati City siege.

"Instead of opening her mind to the serious allegations, she berated me and ordered me detained and paraded to the media," Trillanes said yesterday.

Facing the Feliciano Commission for the first time, the spokesperson of the renegade Magdalo Group had to be re-

SHE/ A17

Mutineer escapes from Cavite camp

ANOTHER one flies the coop.

An enlisted member of the Navy's elite Special Warfare Group who joined the July 27 mutiny bolted a custodial center in Cavite City on Sunday morning, officials said yesterday.

Fireman 1st Engine Man Alex del Valle escaped by scaling the cyclone-wire-topped fence surrounding the Naval Base Cavite custodial center in Camp San Felipe, said Commander Geronimo Malabanan, Navy information officer.

He made his escape at around 7 a.m. Sunday after eating breakfast, Malabanan said in a phone interview.

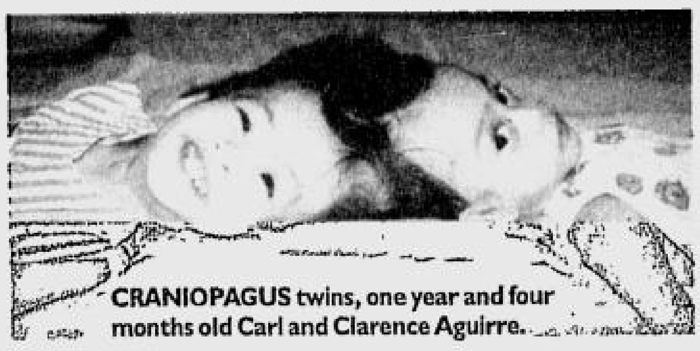
Officials said Del Valle, 26, was among the 33 officers and 57 enlisted personnel from the SWAG who took part in the failed mutiny.

"We have alerted our security forces to apprehend him. We have also directed the Southern Luzon Command in Legazpi to be on the lookout for him because he is a resident of Ligao, Albay," Malabanan said.

If Del Valle fails to return in seven days, he will be declared absent without official leave and "charged dishonorably," Malabanan said.

The guard on duty at the time of the escape, whom Malabanan declined to name, has been investigated.

MUTINEER/ A17



CRANIOPAGUS twins, one year and four months old Carl and Clarence Aguirre.

PAL Foundation, NY hospital helping twins

By Lira Dalangin-Fernandez
INQ7.net

UNLIKE other toddlers their age, Carl and Clarence Aguirre cannot take their first steps. Conjoined at the top of their head, all the 1-year-and-4-month-old twins could do is lie on their backs and tilt to their side.

"They cry whenever they try to stand up," said their mother, Arlene, 30.

The movements of the twins have to be coordinated so they would not be pulling at

PAL/ A7

Loi dares gov't: Arrest me if you got proof

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada yesterday challenged the government to arrest her if it had the goods to link her to the July 27 mutiny.

"What is their basis [for implicating me]? If they want to arrest me, then arrest me," the wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada said in an interview at her Senate office. She said that if she would be arrested and detained, like her husband, at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, she would gladly join him.

But later at the Senate, she said the claim that she owned two of three vans recovered by the military on July 26 near the Navy armory in Sangley Point, Cavite, was "fabricated."

"I'll be brief and candid. I deny this malicious insinuation," she said in a privilege speech.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the claims linking ex-President Estrada's wife, sons and mistress to the mutiny were based on evidence gathered by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces and testimony from reliable witnesses.

"These were not pulled out of thin air, and it just so happened that the evidence points to the family of the former President," Bunye said in

LOI/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/14/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Mutineers' arraignment put off

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court yesterday returned to the justice department the coup d'état charges against the 321 rebel soldiers involved in the July 27 failed coup.

Granting a motion from defense lawyers, Judge Romeo Barza ordered the Department of Justice to conduct a preliminary investigation within 30 days on the charges against the mutineers.

Navy Lt. senior grade Antonio Trillanes IV, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and the other accused mutineers were supposed to have been arraigned for the crime of coup d'état yesterday.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said he did not raise any objections to the defense lawyers' motion asking for a preliminary investigation as "this is a matter of right on the part of the accused."

But he objected to another defense motion seeking to inhibit Barza from hearing the case.

The DOJ filed the charges before the Makati court on Aug. 1 after conducting inquest proceedings against the 321 mutineers who refused to sign a waiver of detention.

The waiver would have removed government's liability for the continued detention of the mutineers and would have meant a mandatory preliminary investigation.

Moot and academic

But the soldiers did not sign the waiver, so the DOJ filed the case.

Zuño said the soldiers should have signed the waiver as the issue was already "moot and academic" since they were already detained for violating the military's Articles of War.

"If they had signed, we would have had a different picture, but they didn't," Zuño said.

He said the DOJ would now conduct the preliminary investigation and the subpoenas for the soldiers could be issued today.

"They will now explain why they got involved (in the attempted coup). They have enough time to file their counter-affidavits," Zuño said.

He said the accused have 10 days to come up with their counter-affidavits but this period could be extended if the defense needed more time to gather evidence.

For security reasons, the military does not have to transport the rebel soldiers to the DOJ, Zuño said. He said the panel of prosecutors will hold the preliminary investigation in the military camps where they are being held.

"We might go to Fort Bonifacio and Camp Aguinaldo. We will ask that we be given enough space to conduct the preliminary investigation," he said.

Inhibition

Defense lawyers want Barza to inhibit himself because he was allegedly a former law partner of Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, who was appointed to the high court by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"That is not really [a] sufficient ground [for Barza's inhibition]. This will unduly delay the proceedings. There's nothing wrong if the case is tried under Judge Barza," Zuño said.

He said Barza's former partners at the Villaraza and Angangco law firm have "nothing to do with the case."

"What's that law firm got to do with the case? The complainants were the DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government) and the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation)," Zuño said.

He said it would take a long time before the mutineers are brought before a court martial as a military fact-finding committee will first have to investigate the allegations against the rebels.

The committee would then forward its findings to the Armed Forces chief of staff who would then decide if the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) should investigate the matter.

Only when the Jago recommends that the rebels be tried will the AFP form the military tribunal to try the mutineers, Zuño said.

"This is a long process. The Chief of Staff will not readily recommend a court martial," he added.

Zuño also said he was confident that Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and his co-accused in the coup d'état case against them would beat the deadline for the filing of their counter-affidavits before the DOJ.

The senator, who is in hiding, has until Monday to submit his counter-affidavit.

Zuño said Honasan's lawyers went to the DOJ last Tuesday and asked for some documents about the case.

"They would not have bothered to inquire and asked for the attachments if they are not going to file a counter-affidavit," Zuño said.

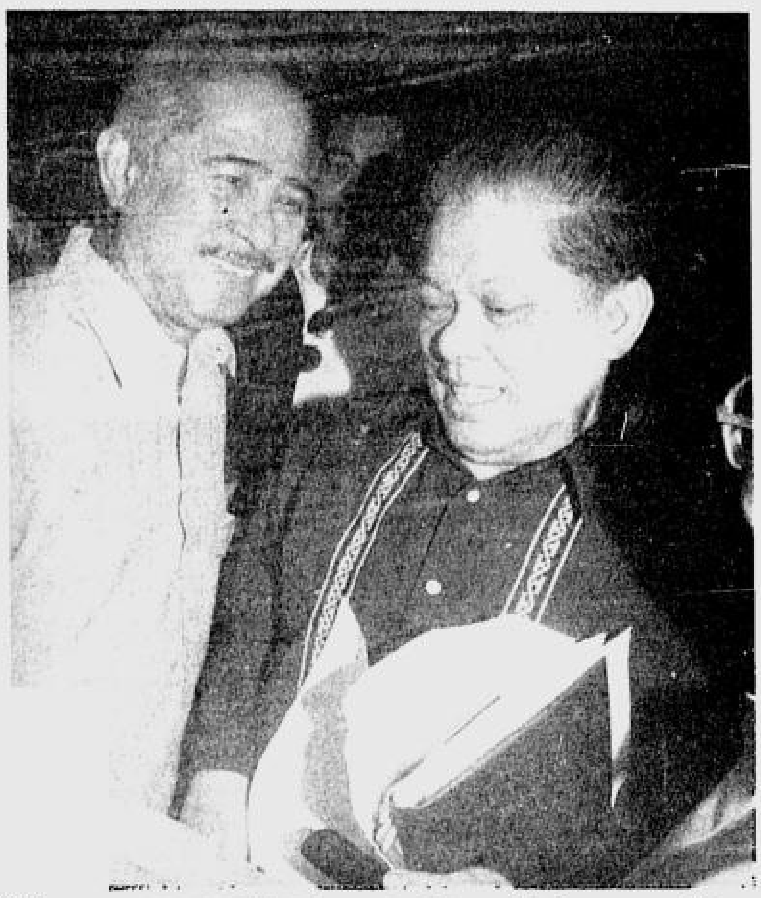
Legal ties

Rene Saguisag, of the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism, Inc. (Mabini) lawyers representing 10 Scout Rrangers involved in the failed coup, said Barza should have ruled on the motion for inhibition before the motion for preliminary investigation.

Defense lawyer Reynaldo Robles said in his statement that Barza was a founding partner of the Carpio, Villaraza, Cruz, Barza and Rosell law offices.

He said the law firm, now known as Villaraza and Angangco, is publicly known and perceived to have very "deep ties" with the family of President Macapagal.

He said all the rulings of Barza would be "suspected and perceived as biased against the accused by the accused and the public as well, regardless of merits of said ruling." *With a report from Margaux Ortiz*



PROSECUTOR Jovencito Zuño and defense counsel Rene Saguisag are all smiles after the postponement of the arraignment pending preliminary investigation

JUDGE BARZA

Lawsuit for $40-million Marcos 'loot' to resume

A US district court is expected to resume hearings by the end of the year on a long-stalled lawsuit seeking to recover $40 million in assets of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos being managed by an American brokerage firm, an attorney for the plaintiffs said.

Lawyer Sherry Broder said US District Judge Manuel L. Real last week rejected a motion seeking to have the Philippine government dismissed from the case and has set a pre-trial conference date for September.

"The matter will go to trial hopefully by the end of the year," she said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), whose mandate it is to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses, earlier said the $40-million assets were listed under Arelma Inc., a Panamanian-registered firm believed to be one of the Marcos family's dummy foundations.

The New York-based Merrill Lynch has managed the Arelma account which has now grown to $40 million in cash and securities.

The $40 million has been held in an escrow account because of competing claims of ownership by the Marcoses, the Philippine government and the human rights victims.

It is separate from $658.2 million in frozen Swiss assets that the Supreme Court awarded to the government last month.

The money is being sought to pay some 10,000 Marcos victims who earlier won a now-$3.1 billion judgment against the Marcoses for human rights abuses, but haven't been paid a single penny since the ruling by a Honolulu jury eight years ago.

The PCGG had threatened to sue Merrill Lynch for twice the sum of the Arelma assets if the human rights victims were given the assets.

"We want to resolve who owns the money," Broder said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also promised to set aside at least $147 million of the Swiss assets to compensate human rights victims.

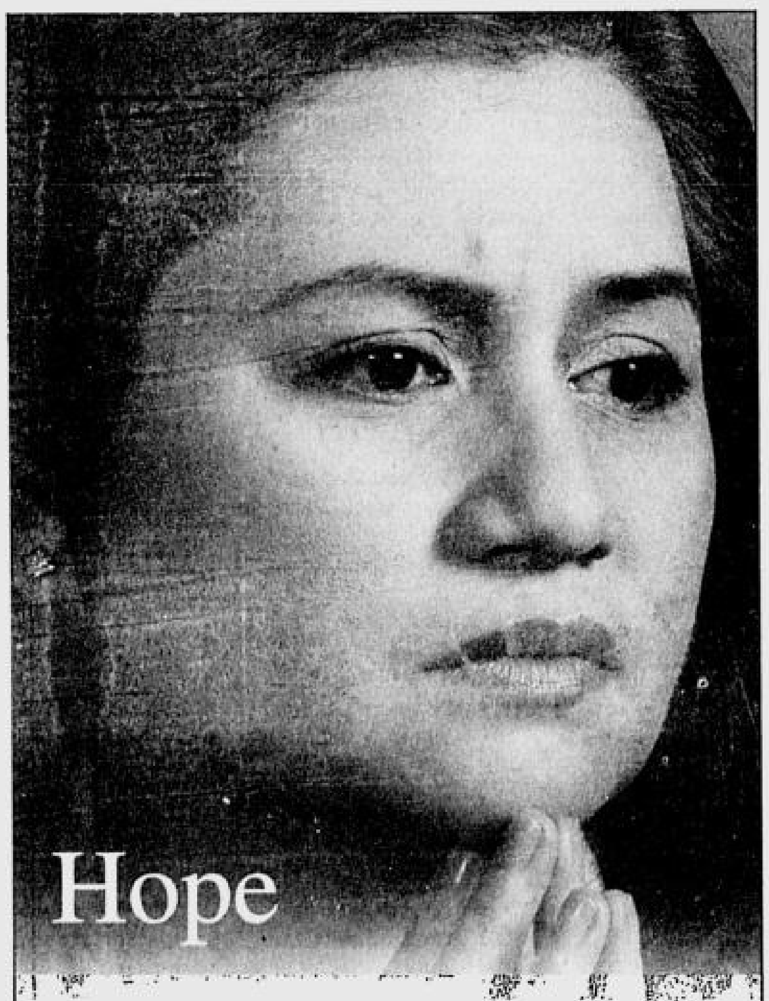
At the lower house, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales put her foot down against efforts to water down the Marcos compensation bill.

"Only Marcos victims would benefit from the Marcos money," Rosales stressed yesterday.

Rosales is one of the principal authors of House Bill 4535 which seeks to set aside some $200 million of the recovered $683 million Swiss accounts for martial law victims.

But the money may yet slip away from beneficiaries who have been waiting for almost 20 years for compensation after two administration congressmen moved to "recommit" House Bill 4535 to the committee level and to have the measure "rewritten."

Representatives Arthur Defensor (Lakas, Iloilo) and Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental) made the proposal during their interpellation of Rosales, who acknowledged that HB 4535 needs to be "sharpened." *Donna Pazzibugan and Clarito Pablo, with AP report*



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References:
1. Folkers K, Brown R, Judy WV, et al · *Survival of cancer patients on therapy with coenzyme Q10.* Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 192(1): 241-245 1993.
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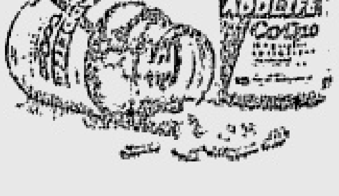

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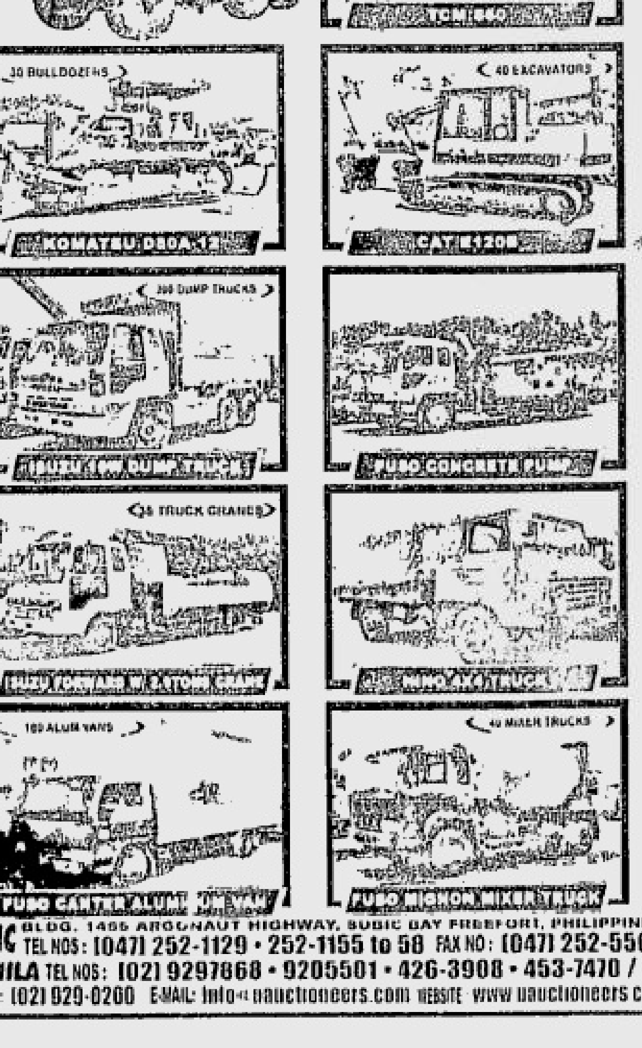

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Pimentel wants SC to rule on state of rebellion

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OPPOSITION in the Senate yesterday called on the Supreme Court to rule on the legality of the state of rebellion imposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo at the height of the mutiny on July 27.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Supreme Court should still rule on his petition despite the decision of the President to lift the declaration on Monday.

Pimentel said he believed that the legal question brought before the SC on Aug. 11 had not been rendered academic by the lifting of the state of rebellion.

"There are fundamental issues involved here," said Pimentel who stressed that the opposition bloc in the Senate wanted the tribunal to settle the matter once and for all. He then called on the high court to resolve the matter so as to provide legal guideposts "for future use."

Pimentel noted that several opposition senators, including Gregorio Honasan and Edgardo Angara and former senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, had earlier brought the same legal question with the Supreme Court.

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   a. Christina Aguilera
   b. Natalie Portman
   c. Ewan McGregor
   d. Ronan Keating
2. Lourdes Carvajal is more popularly known as?
   a. Inday Garutay
   b. Inday sa Balitaw
   c. Inday Badiday
   d. Ate Glow
3. Which brand of sports apparel does Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant endorse?
   a. Nike
   b. Reebok
   c. Adidas
   d. Fila
4. Who is the latest endorser of PH Care and Palmolive?
   a. Donita Rose
   b. KC Concepcion
   c. Camille Pratts
   d. Kristine Hermosa
5. Which popular singer made a cameo on Charlies' Angels: Full Throttle?
   a. Pink
   b. Jennifer Love Hewitt
   c. Michelle Branch
   d. Mandy Moore

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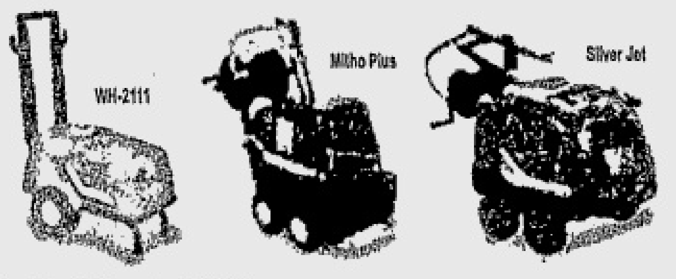

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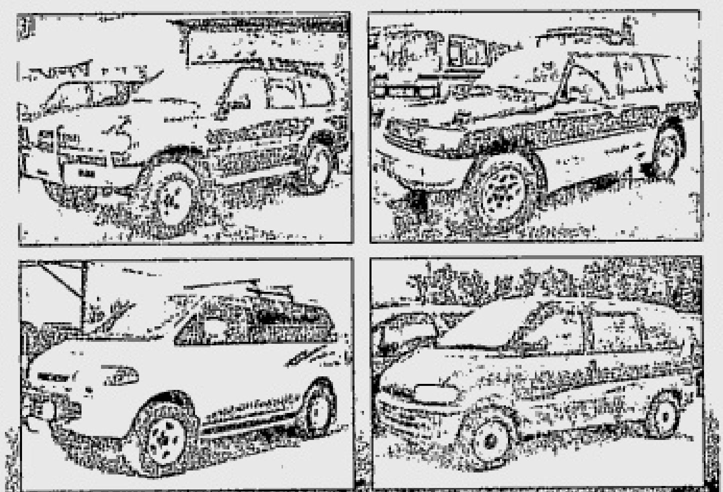

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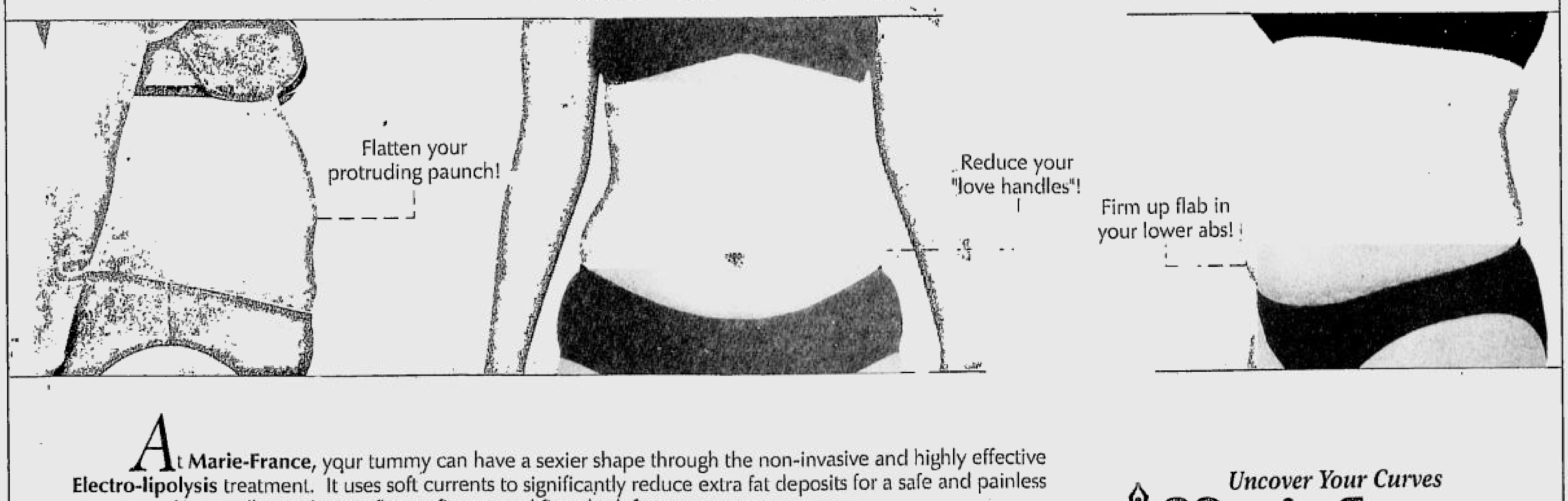
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New terror attacks a matter of time, warns Australia

AUSTRALIA has warned that it will only be a matter of time before terrorists stage another deadly attack in the Southeast Asian region.

"There is genuine concern that a catastrophic attack is a certainty and only a matter of time, a point on which I'm inclined to agree," said Dennis Richardson, director general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) as quoted by the Malaysian news agency Bernama.

Richardson made the comments at an off-the-record briefing to the annual conference of the Pacific Area Newspaper Publisher's Association last week, but decided to make his remarks public only yesterday, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

Richardson said Australia has become a major target of terrorists in the region because of its close alliance with the United States. The United States has also warned of more attacks on US interests in Indonesia.

Richardson's warning came after a car bomb attack last week at the US-owned JW Marriot Hotel in downtown Jakarta which killed 11 people and injured 150 others.

Indonesia's defense minister said the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist network was behind the deadly bomb blast.

The JI, which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network, was also behind the powerful bomb explosion in Bali, Indonesia last October that killed 202 people, mostly Western tourists, including 88 Australians.

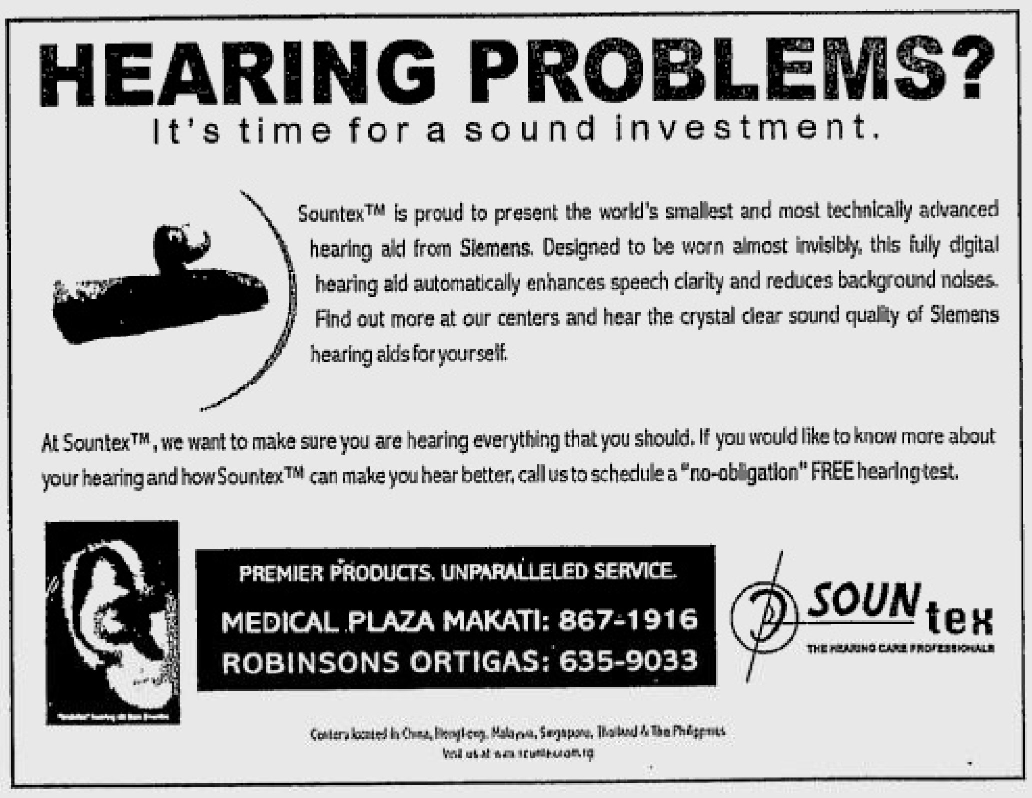
The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has advised Australians to defer non-essential travel to Indonesia, including Bali.

"The Aug. 5 attack at the JW Marriott Hotel in central Jakarta is a reminder that terrorist groups are active in Indonesia and that attacks could occur at any time," the DFAT said.

The Australian government said it continues to receive reports that further attacks are being planned against so-called soft targets, including international hotels, shopping centers or identifiably Western businesses.

The DFAT said threats against Australians and Australian interests in the Philippines are also high as it also received reports that terrorist elements in the region are planning attacks.

JI bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from the Camp Crame police headquarters in the middle of Australian Prime Minister John Howard's visit to Manila last month, and is believed to be in hiding in Mindanao. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*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Troops widen search for elusive Al-Ghozi

TROOPS have widened their hunt for a suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomber after failing to find him in Lanao del Norte, officials said yesterday.

At least three areas were being scoured by government troops for Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who escaped with two suspected Filipino Islamic extremists last month in an embarrassing setback to President Macapagal-Arroyo's US-backed war on terror.

"A wider net has been spread and local officials and the communities have been alerted," Ms Macapagal said. "We will not stop."

The military focused its search in mountainous Lanao del Norte last week after one escapee, Abdulmukim Edris, was arrested at an Army checkpoint and agreed to lead troops to Al-Ghozi.

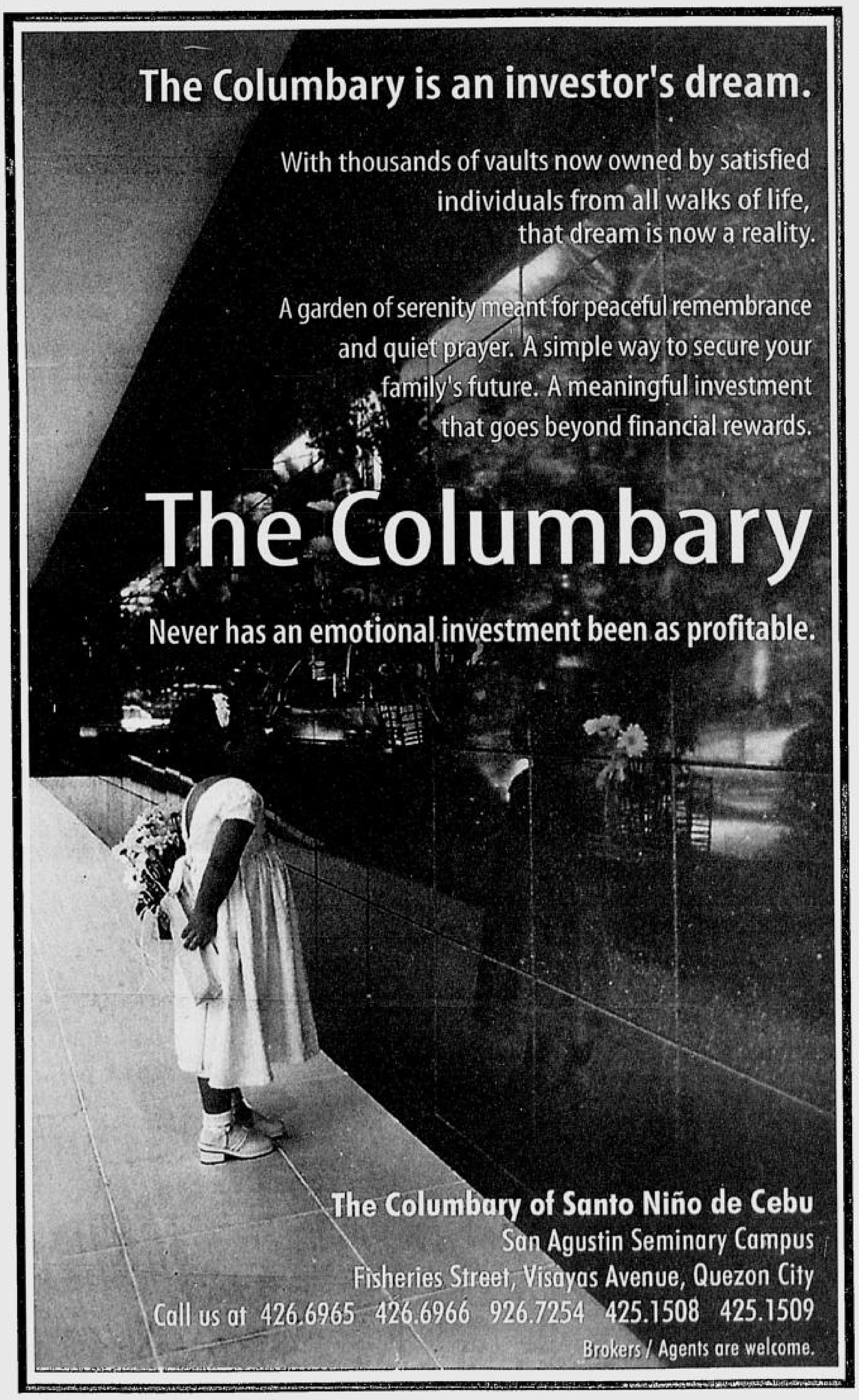
Edris and a companion, however, were shot to death by soldiers when he allegedly tried to grab a soldier's rifle, military officials said.

Failing to so far find Al-Ghozi in Lanao del Norte, soldiers have begun a search in the remote town of Kabuntalan in Maguindanao province, where civilians have reported seeing the fugitive, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

A search was also underway on the Zamboanga peninsula, a sprawling mountainous region with scattered Muslim communities, he said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large rebel group fighting for a separate Muslim homeland in the south, has expressed concern over the military manhunt near their strongholds in Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao, saying it could lead to accidental clashes that might jeopardize planned peace talks with the government.

Ms Macapagal has stressed that the military operations were aimed at finding Al-Ghozi and not an attack on the guerrillas. But she warned that armed groups found giving sanctuary to the fugitives would suffer the "direst consequences." *AP*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Low turnout marks absentee voting list-up

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ONLY 10,000 out of the estimated 8 million qualified Filipino absentee voters worldwide have registered in Philippine embassies and consular offices abroad as of Aug. 9 this year, according to the Commission on Elections.

Comelec figures show that since the registration started on Aug. 1 this year, so far 6,172 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) have registered in Hong Kong; 600 in the United States and Canada; and 616 in other Asian countries. The Comelec expects 1.2 million Filipinos to register as absentee voters worldwide for the May 2004 elections.

The low turnout of registration by absentee voters is being blamed on the lack of awareness by many Filipinos abroad on the registration proceedings and requirements and on a controversial provision in the new absentee voting law.

The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003, signed into law in February this year, allows Filipino citizens who are permanent residents in other countries to cast absentee votes in the Philippines. The law, however, requires them to execute an affidavit pledging to return to the Philippines and permanently reside in the country within three years from the time of registration.

Some Filipino-American organizations in the US earlier warned that many Filipinos were not inclined to register as absentee voters because of this provision.

So far only 35 Filipinos of the 120,000 qualified absentee voters in Los Angeles showed up in the first week of registration for the 2004 elections. The registration ends on Sept. 30 this year.

The dismal turnout prompted Sen. Francis Pangilinan yesterday to ask the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday to step up its information campaign on the new absentee voting law.

Pangilinan learned of the low turnout after meeting with Philippine Consulate general Officer in charge Ma. Hellen Barber and other Comelec-deputized DFA personnel in Los Angeles, California.

Pangilinan urged Philippine embassies and consulates to reach out to the OFWs and Filipino immigrants instead of just waiting for them to come and register. He said the DFA and the Comelec should exhaust all available means to convince OFWs to register.

In 2002, total remittances of the estimated 8 million OFWs worldwide reached $6.93 billion. This year, total OFW remittances are expected to hit $7.6 billion.

Under the absentee voting law, overseas Filipinos must personally register and cast their ballots at the Philippine embassy or consulate in the country where they reside.

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Parking at NAIA restricted

FEARS of a terrorist car-bombing have prompted security officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to prohibit taxicabs and private vehicles from remaining long at the arrival and departure areas.

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda said cabs and private cars would have to leave the departure and arrival areas as soon as they have loaded or unloaded their plane passengers.

"The two areas will be considered a 'tow-away zone' for all unauthorized vehicles," Manda said. *Jerome Aning*

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Bush to push through with state visit to RP

UNITED States President George W. Bush will push through with a planned state visit here in October.

This was confirmed yesterday by the US Embassy in Manila in response to media speculations that the visit would likely be cancelled because of recent incidents such as the escape of Indonesian bomb maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and the July 27 failed coup.

"Planning for the American President's visit to the Philippines, his first state visit abroad, continues," said the US embassy in a statement.

It said Bush would be visiting the Philippines in October when he visits the region to attend the Leaders' Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group.

The embassy noted that Bush had accepted President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation for him to visit the Philippines during the latter's state visit to Washington last May 19.

Ending a joint press conference with Ms Macapagal at the White House that day, Bush said: "Finally, I'm honored to accept President Arroyo's generous invitation to visit the Philippines this fall, when I intend tc travel to Southeast Asia for the Apec leaders meeting."

During his visit, Bush is expected to reaffirm US support for the Macapagal administration in the wake of the rebellion led by a group of junior military officers last July 27. Authorities said the mutiny was part of a bigger plot to overthrow the government and establish a military junta.

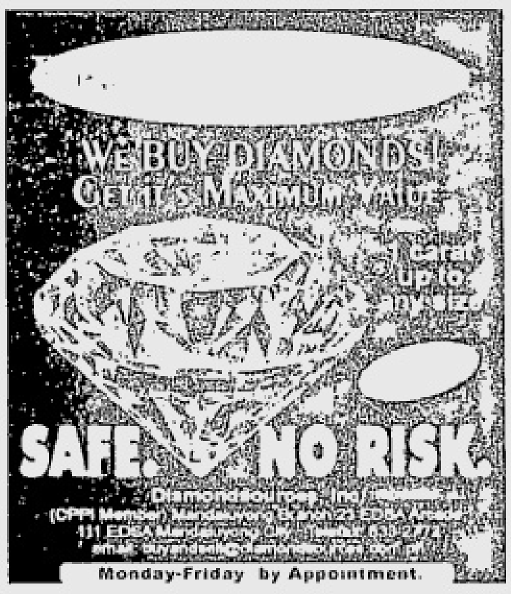
A day after the mutineers went back to barracks and agreed to face trial for rebellion, the US State Department released a statement expressing its pleasure on the resolution of the crisis with no loss of life.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople earlier dismissed reports that the Bush visit would not push through because of the escape of Al-Ghozi which supposedly posed a security threat to the US President.

Ople said the Bush visit will "symbolize the continuing strengthening of our relations in an increasingly challenging global environment."

There is much that the two leaders will discuss when they meet in October," he said.

Gerald G. Lacuarta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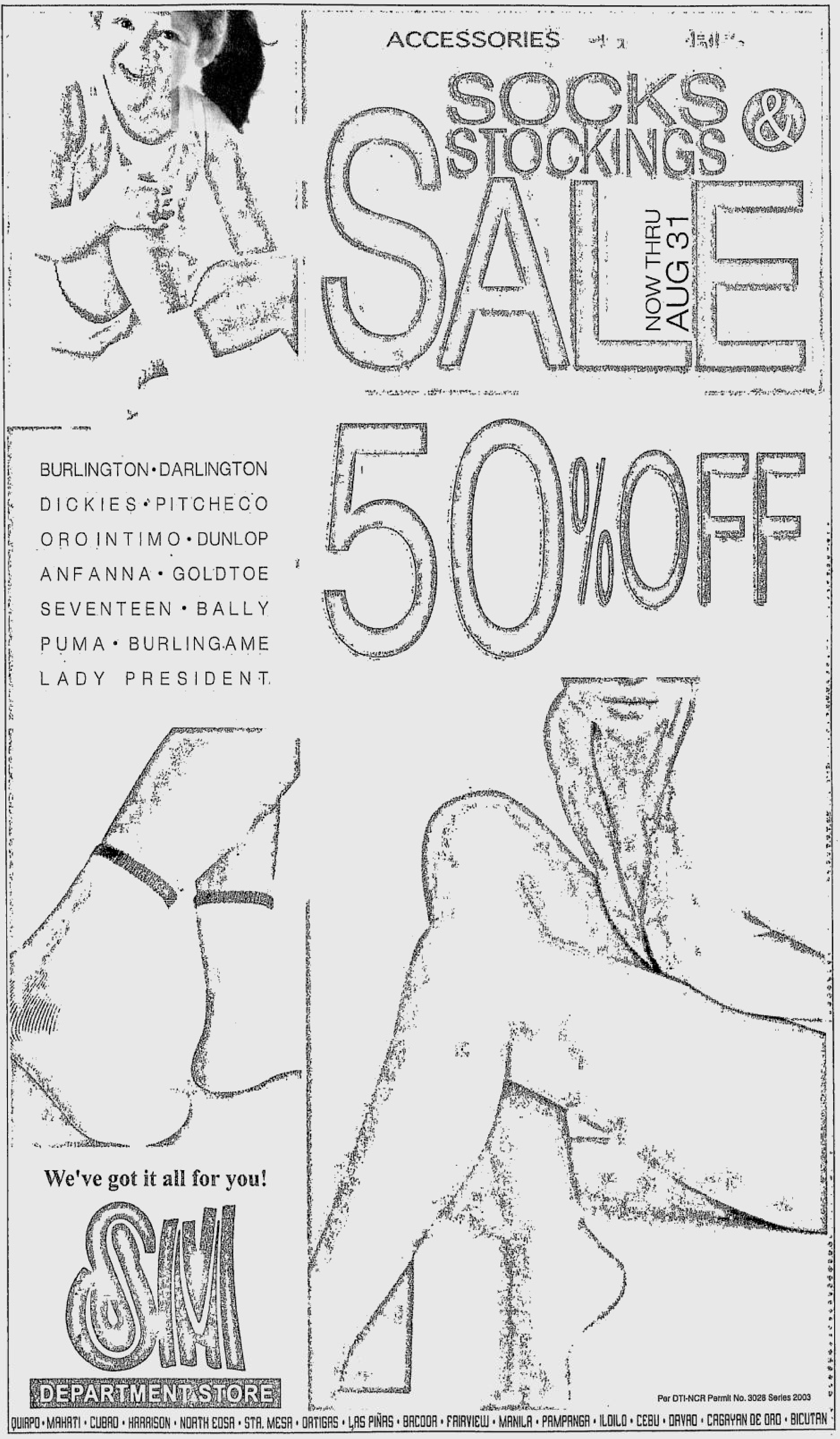
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Loi dares gov't: Arrest me if you got proof

From page A1

an interview with RMN. "They have to explain why some of their assets were in a specific area during the July 27 coup d'etat."

Bunye reiterated that the President had a standing order for authorities to get to the bottom of the mutiny, including its civilian component.

"The investigators, whether they are from the AFP or the [Philippine National Police], are only doing their jobs," he said.

But Senator Estrada said the Isafp was "twisting and fabricating" evidence.

"Such reckless and wanton disregard for truth is despicable, and certainly has no place in a democratic setting," she said.

She also said the Isafp was "busy concocting stories for political ends."

On Tuesday at the first hearing of the Feliciano Commission, Isafp chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay said the three vehicles recovered by the military—a white Kia Besta van registered under the Estrada-owned JELP Realty, a Mazda van and an L-300 Mitsubishi van—had been used by the rebel soldiers.

Cabuay said the Kia and Mazda vans bore stickers of the North Greenhills Homeowners' Association where the Estradas live, while the Mitsubishi and the Mazda vans had Senate stickers.

He also said a white envelope sealed with a sticker marked "Jude Estrada PAF" was found inside the Kia van.

No problem

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group would evaluate the evidence against the senator and her son Jude to determine whether criminal charges should be filed.

"We will see where this will lead us. We will act on the basis of the evidence gathered," Lina said in a press conference.

The senator said she and her son would face the charges head-on.

"Sure, there's no problem with that. If they're going to charge me, maybe I'll get a lawyer to help me out," she said in the interview, speaking in a mixture of English and Tagalog.

"But I don't think it will come to that. If that's their only evidence, it will not prosper," she said, adding that she and her family would wait for the filing of the complaint before formally answering the charges.

Still, Senator Estrada said she had no knowledge of the three vans allegedly used by rebel soldiers. She also said "the vehicles are no longer with us."

As for the claim that at least two of the vans had stickers issued in her name, she said: "Anybody can buy a Senate [car] sticker. My office doesn't issue a Senate [car] sticker."

To the question of whether she thought the Macapagal administration was engaged in a witch-hunt, Senator Estrada said: "You can't discount politics ... because all of us are in politics. It goes [with the territory]."

She claimed that she and her son were being linked to the failed coup because "they want President Estrada [linked to it]."

"As a matter of fact, I'm not surprised about this. Sometimes, we expect all of these [to happen to us]," she said.

Senator Estrada said there was an apparent orchestrated move to pin down the former first family because of the 2004 elections.

"The elections are near," she said. "Whatever you say, President Estrada still has a 35-37 percent [following among the voting populace]."

She refused to comment on the alleged involvement of Laarni Enriquez, one of her husband's mistresses, in the rebellion.

"I can't comment on that," she said. I'm not involved [in her case]. My main concern is my alleged link [to the coup]."

No sense

The senator's colleagues in the opposition do not believe that she and Enriquez would work together to stage a mutiny.

"Without intending to sound malicious, I can't see the point of Senator Loi and Laarni conspiring with each other to stage a coup," Sen. Panfilo Lacson told reporters when sought for comment. "It doesn't make any sense."

Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III also said as much, expressing disbelief that two of the women in the life of the deposed President would conspire with each other.

"That's next to impossible," Sotto said.

With another opposition senator linked to the mutiny, Senate President Franklin Drilon urged authorities to file charges in court.

Shotgun approach

"I urge them not to present their evidence before the media but to the proper forum," Drilon said at a news conference.

He told reporters later: "If they have evidence, then they should file a case. If they don't, they should just keep quiet."

Drilon made the same appeal when Sen. Gregorio Honasan was first accused of involvement in the July 27 coup attempt.

Sotto yesterday said that with the way things were happening, the government was apparently implying that politics was behind the failed coup.

Another opposition senator, Rodolfo Biazon, said the government was using a "shotgun approach" in its presentation of evidence against the alleged coup plotters.

Biazon reiterated his appeal that criminal investigation be done first so that charges could be filed and the respondents given their day in court.

No reason to hide

Lina said Honasan had no reason to hide because he would not be arrested until after a court had issued a warrant.

"There is no reason for him to give clandestine interviews to reporters," Lina said, adding that the coup charges against Honasan were still with the justice department. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Nelson Flores*

Erratum

We would like to make a correction on the HP Compaq Business Desktop D220 ad with the headline "We're giving you eleven ways to increase your productivity." that came out in the Philippine Daily Inquirer dated July 24, 31 and August 4, 6 and 12, 2003. Instead of 10/100/1000 stated in the ad, the HP Compaq D220 offered in the promo only carries 10/100 LAN.

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Erap says Reyes house worth at least P50M

From page A1

for his mistresses, yesterday implied Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was constructing a house costing way beyond his official income.

Estrada, who is under detention while undergoing trial for plunder in the Sandiganbayan, reckoned that the house that Reyes was building in Fort Bonifacio could be worth about P50 million—not just P10 million as Reyes claimed.

"Take it from me, I used to be involved in the build-and-sell business. It (Reyes' house) is worth at least P50 million," Estrada told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from his special detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

"That house cannot be worth P10 million . . . It's three stories high," Estrada said.

"I know the cost of residential and commercial housing projects. That was one of my businesses when I was still an actor."

Lifestyle check

Reyes, who is the subject of a lifestyle check by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, had said he took out a P10-million loan from PSBank last year to finance the purchase of an additional 400-square-meter lot at the AFP Officers Village in Fort Bonifacio and the construction of a house.

The new lot adjoins a 400-square-meter lot that Reyes bought in 1980 for P15,000. According to Reyes, the old lot is now worth about P5 million. Both lots are reflected in his 2002 statement of assets and liabilities.

Asked whether he had received reports of irregularities involving Reyes, Estrada quickly ended the interview.

Reyes served as Armed Forces chief of staff during Estrada's tenure, but switched loyalty at the height of Edsa II. Estrada's successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, later appointed Reyes as her defense secretary.

Asked in a radio interview on Tuesday whether he had ever been involved in any form of corruption, Reyes replied: "It's hard to say that I had not received a single centavo . . . I might be hit by lightning."

Ford Expedition

In an interview shortly after Edsa II, Reyes disclosed that then President Estrada gifted him with a Ford Expedition.

Reyes, who has come under fire following the July 27 Makati mutiny, has submitted himself to an investigation by the PAGC.

The head of the PAGC said the agency would act independently in the conduct of its lifestyle check on Reyes.

"The PAGC has always been independent and I think that's what the President wants," Dario Rama said in a telephone interview.

"The President never put her fingers in anything that the PAGC did," Rama said. "She never asked me, whether directly or indirectly, to exonerate any official from graft charges."

He said the PAGC would wrap up its investigation of Reyes in 60 days.

Rama said PAGC had shown its independence in its investigation involving former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, former Education Secretary Raul Roco, former Press Secretary Nani Braganza and officials of the Public Estates Authority.

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   - Westin Philippine Plaza (CCP Complex)
   - Evercrest Golf and Country Club (Batulao)
   - Waterfront Cebu City (Cebu City)
   - Hotel del Rio** (Iloilo City)
   - The Marco Polo (Davao)
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PAL Foundation, NY hospital helping twins

From page A1

different directions; when one boy moves in the opposite direction, the other's eyes become distended and the veins in their heads swell.

But the twins may soon have a chance to live normal lives.

They are scheduled to undergo surgery in one of the best hospitals in New York City where they are to be separated. They already got sponsors for their plane fare and their operation.

Local, foreign sponsors

As soon as she saw Carl and Clarence after they were born, Arlene said she knew they had to be separated. But she could not afford the cost of an operation.

The twins' pediatrician referred them to the Philippine Airlines Foundation, the local partner of the US-based nonprofit organization Children's Chance which helped find sponsors for the operation.

PAL Foundation will provide the plane tickets for the Aguirres.

On Aug. 8, the US Embassy in Manila refused to give them a visa that would have allowed them to travel to America. The interviewing consul found inadequate the documents Arlene had submitted.

Arlene said the consul needed the original documents from the twins' foreign sponsors and wanted her to draft an affidavit stating she was unemployed and that the twins were illegitimate.

Arlene, who lives in Silay City, Negros Occidental, had resigned from her job as a nurse to take care of the twins when they were born. Her mother, Evelyn, also had to resign from her work as an accountant to help Arlene.

The Aguirres have been staying in a nun's shelter in Manila since July for the twins' medical tests and travel documents.

Arlene then wrote an appeal to the US Embassy, asking it to waive the affidavit and the $300 application fee they need to pay anew for another round of interview.

The embassy agreed to waive the affidavit and the application fee. But it said the Aguirres needed to provide the original letter from the hospital and the attending physician indicating where the operation will be performed, and a letter "explicitly indicating who will shoulder all hospital expenses and follow-up medical treatment, food and lodging accommodations" during the duration of their stay in the United States.

The embassy also recently allowed Arlene to submit copies of the faxed documents from the twins' sponsors in the States.

"My children are suffering from an error of nature. They only seek to live as single human beings," Arlene said.

The twins are supposed to be confined first at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhall, New York, for two months for a series of medical tests and to get them nutritionally sound for the operation. They will be recuperating in the same hospital after the operation for around one year.

Carl and Clarence, at 6.5 and 6.1 kilograms, respectively, are underweight for their age.

They need to "beef up" their bodies first and expand their scalp enough to cover the cranium before their heads are separated, said Dr. Willy Lopez of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine-Philippine General Hospital.

The operation will be performed by 30 surgeons and doctors at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. The team will be headed by Dr. James Goodrich, chief of the pediatric and neurosurgery division of Montefiore.

Diffferent from Iranians

In an e-mail to INQ7.net, Goodrich said the twins' situation was "quite different" from that of Iranian twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani whose surgical separation in Singapore last month resulted in their deaths.

Goodrich said separating conjoined twins when they are still young was less risky than an operation on adults.

The Bijani twins were 29 years old.

"We are planning a staged separation to allow the shared vessels to branch out and develop what we call collateral circulation," Goodrich said.

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test on the twins showed their brains to be completely separate. But Lopez said it was difficult to predict the chances of their survival until other tests are completed, including an examination of their blood vessels.

The latter test could have been done in a local hospital, but Lopez said "red tape" made it difficult for them to avail of the service.

He added that while the PGH has the expertise to perform the surgery on the twins, it does not have enough logistics to do so.

"For the sake of the kids, New York can really offer much more than all of us combined," Lopez said.

Craniopagus twins—those who are conjoined at the head—are very rare, occurring in one in every two million births.

Lopez said he remembered only three such cases in the country, the Aguirres included.

The first pair was separated sometime in 1985 in a local hospital after a series of operations. The smaller twin died of infection after the procedure, while the other lived and went to school, although Lopez said he walked with a limp.

The second pair was a partial craniopagus case—only the scalp and the envelope of their brains were joined. A less difficult operation was performed in the mid-'80s and both twins survived.

$2-M procedure

The procedure on the Aguirre twins, including hospitalization costs and medical fees, could reach $2 million, according to Dorita Urrata, director of Children's Chance.

The figure does include the pre-operation stage and the post-operation rehabilitation.

She said the procedure on the twins would be "highly specialized" and that only about 10 US hospitals could perform an operation on craniopagus twins.

Distinct traits

Four months into her pregnancy, Arlene had already known she would give birth to craniopagus twins. She delivered them on April 21, 2002 at the Philippine General Hospital.

The twins have distinct character traits.

Carl is quiet and behaved. He would cast a pensive look and turn to his side when he sees strangers.

Clarence is jolly and energetic. He talks and smiles at visitors. When he hears the popular ditty "Spageti Song," he moves his frail body to the music, to his brother's displeasure.

"They also snatch each other's toys or food," Arlene said.

She noticed, however, that the twins did not want to touch each other's hand, even if she made them.

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CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

Moving Forward

First, we would like to thank consumers nationwide for their overwhelming support and response to our "Time to Reflect" ads where we called for unity and the need to pull together.

Seven national business organizations agreed ten days ago, to focus on going back to a "state of normalcy" and with the lifting of the state of rebellion we are moving towards a "business as usual" environment.

Oil Price Update

The discrepancy of 15 centavos between the computation of the Consumer & Oil Price Watch (33 centavos) and the Big 3 Oil Companies' (48 centavos) is explained as follows:

The oil companies were prompted to advance 21 centavos of 36-centavo oil price increase by ten days, August 8 instead of Week of August 18th, as they were prevailed upon to postpone the oil price increase due them last July 21st because of the SONA and the failed coup attempt.

NO transport fare increase; prices of prime commodities to remain stable

We assure the public that, notwithstanding the oil price increase, prices of prime commodities will remain stable as confirmed by Secretary Mar Roxas and the private sector. Also, transport fares will not increase.

Average Oil Price Increase (Decrease)

Months	Effectivity Date	COPW	Actual of Oil Companies	To date (Over)/ Under Recovery
April vs. May	Week of June 15	(.20)		(.20) Over
May vs. June	Week of July 21	.47	.27 (Aug. 8th)	0 - Even
June vs. July	Week of Aug. 18	.36	.21 (Aug. 8th)	.15 Under
		.63 centavos	.48 centavos	.15 centavos Under

We asked one of the Big 3 oil companies not to proceed with the balance of 15 centavos on the Week of August 18th, instead, to await the movement of the prices of petroleum products.

The actual average oil price increase of 48 centavos was based on the product mix ratio of 60% diesel and 40% gasoline.

The projected average 36-centavo oil price increase in August is based on the price increase of crude by $1.21 in July vs. June (July $26.72 vs. June $25.51) and the peso depreciation by 35 centavos (July P53.77 vs. June P53.42).

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 247

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher Isagani Yambot
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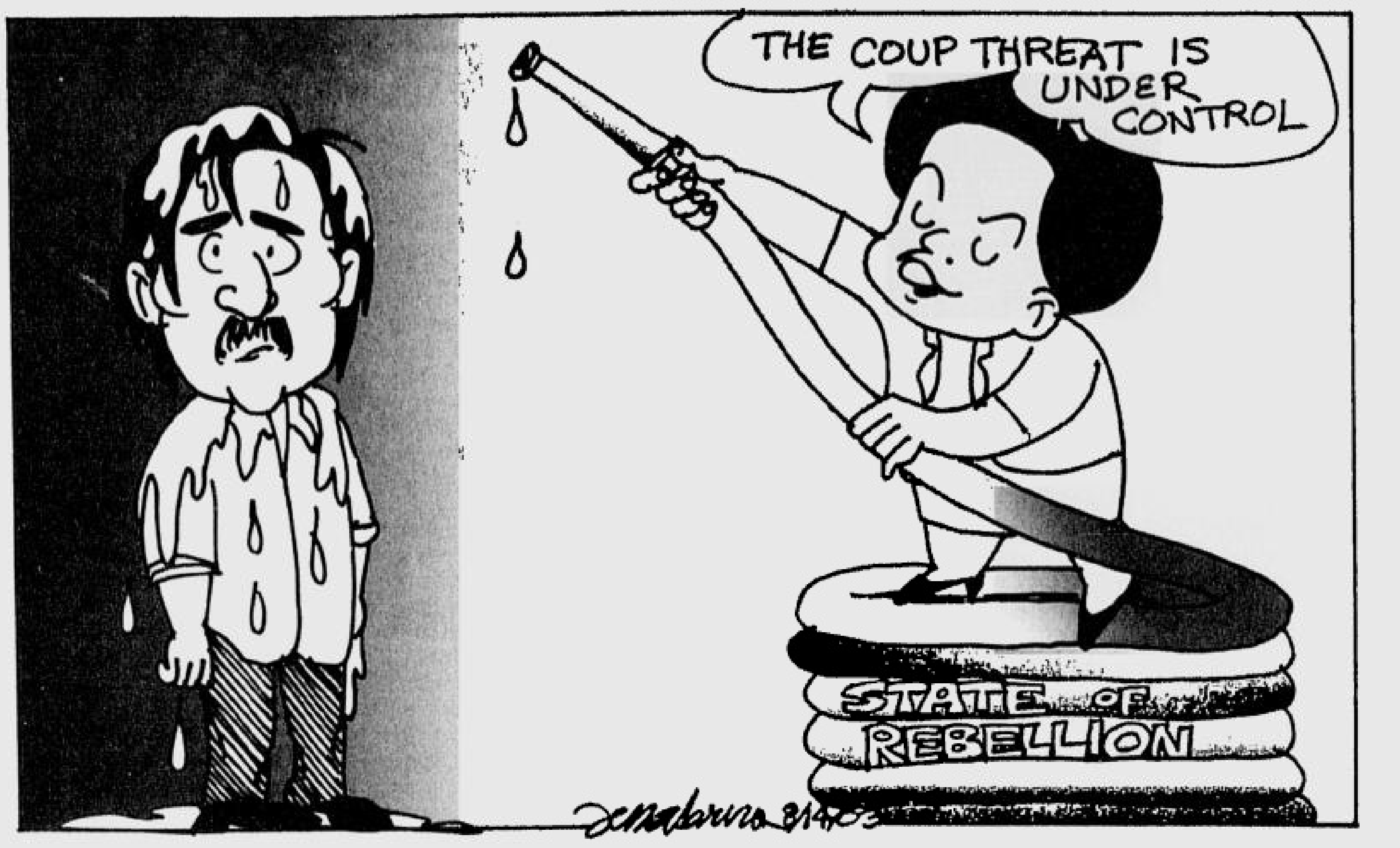

THE COUP THREAT IS UNDER CONTROL
STATE OF REBELLION

Wrong accent

EDITORIAL

THIS country is sinking from an excess freight of investigations, in the aftermath of the failed July 27 coup. The audacious cabal of disgruntled military officers has rattled the fragile foundations of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong republic" more strongly than their wildest expectations from their ill-planned attempt to grab power.

Although the coup failed, it has left in its wake a wide swath of investigations. At least three investigations are under way: first, the inquiry of the Feliciano Commission into the underlying causes of the coup and the grievances which triggered their uprising; secondly, hearings in the Senate and the House of Representatives, looking for causes ostensibly "in aid of legislation"; and, thirdly, the formation of anti-corruption task forces by the administration to conduct lifestyle checks on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and other defense and military officers to determine whether they are living beyond their means. Not to be ignored is an investigation initiated by the Department of National Defense of allegations that soldiers sold weapons to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Most of these inquiries are clearly overlapping. For example, the Feliciano Commission and the congressional inquiries are covering the same grounds in search of the deep-seated causes of coups. The soldiers' grievances fall within the scope of these various inquiries.

Since the Feliciano Commission is conducting its hearings not with an eye to play to the gallery, its proceedings are not likely to turn into an arena for circuses, which are the distinguishing marks of congressional inquiries.

The congressional hearings, which began a few days after the coup was quashed, have focused on the soldiers' grievances and on raking the administration over the coals for the emergency measures to defend government. This accent has laid more emphasis on the grievances rather than on the dangers facing democracy from outbreaks of mutiny from soldiers nursing grievances.

This emphasis downgrades the importance of the issue of the coup which, to us, is more serious than the grievances. While the grievances should not be papered over, they are not sufficient reason to justify a coup. The fact that members of Congress are less alarmed about the threat of the coup to the democratic system—of which the legislature is a key institutional cornerstone—than military corruption mirrors their wrong priorities.

Corruption, and not only in the military, has been an endemic element in Philippine society, and has been a defining election issue since the establishment of the post-war republic. We have addressed this issue in a democratic fashion. Most of the post-war Philippine administrations lost power because of the corruption issue. Thus, we tossed out corrupt and abusive regimes and changed administrations, for most of our post-war history, through the democratic method of elections—not by coup d'état.

The danger raised by the false emphasis of congressional hearings on the corruption grievances stems from their failure to recognize that the method used by the mutinous officers to redress the grievances—the coup d'état—is essentially anti-democratic. Evidence uncovered in the wake of the coup indicates that the Makati attack was not just to call attention to the grievances, but was really a planned conspiracy to grab power.

No democratic institution is safe from a coup which leads to the installation of a junta or a military dictatorship. In a regime ruled by a junta, albeit proclaimed with seductive rhetoric to clean up all the organs of the political system, Congress has no place. After the declaration of martial law in 1972 by President Ferdinand Marcos, the first institutions that were shut down within 24 hours of the emergency proclamation were Congress and the press—two institutions which were beguiled by the grievances rather than appreciating the dangers posed to democracy by the coup d'état as a method of leadership change.

Let us be warned against the danger that these multiple investigations would lead us to romanticize soldiers' grievances which were used as an excuse to impose a dictatorship.

Delving into the coup plotter's mind

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHO are the military officers who are likely to mount a coup? Can they be spotted by neuropsychiatric tests while they are still cadets? What goes on in the minds of coup plotters? Why do they do it?

These were among the questions dissected during last Tuesday's Health Forum which usually discusses health issues. This time, the topic was the mental health of coup artists, and the panelists all came from the PMA—the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine Medical Association. Leading the Academy contingent were Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, former Armed Forces chief of staff and former PMA superintendent who fought putschists in 1989, and Col. Danny Lucero, a reformed coup leader and member of RAM whose forces could have fought the loyal soldiers of General Biazon in 1989. From the ranks of doctors came Dr. Gregorio Diokno, a psychiatrist at St. Luke's Medical Center, plus the regulars from the Philippine College of Physicians.

Biazon said all cadets are subjected to neuro-psychiatric examinations before admission to the PMA, every year after that, and before any promotion when they become career officers.

But Diokno said that these tests are mere "paper tests" in which cadets answer questions on sheets of paper which are then analyzed by doctors. This is not adequate to spot potential troublemakers, he said. A psychiatrist would need two to three hours of one-on-one sessions with each subject to determine whether or not he is a likely candidate for a coup. In the present setup, many candidates fall through the cracks in the same way that personalities with quirks that make them dangerous to possess guns are not spotted by the current psychiatric tests for applicants for gun licenses.

Biazon said the tests are conducted by doctors of the V. Luna Medical Center, but Diokno replied that it doesn't matter who conducts them or where. The problem is with the system and the standards.

What does the PMA teach their cadets that they turn out to be coup adventurers? Loyalty to the commander in chief, flag and country is always emphasized, of course, and the public impression that most PMA graduates are coup plotters is wrong. Of the thousands of PMA graduates, said a major, only a few hundred have been lured to adventurism. The great majority have remained loyal to their commander in chief.

There was never a coup before 1986. Why are there suddenly so many of them after 1986?

Because of our eschewed values in reward and punishment. Crimes like coups should be punished so that future coups are discouraged. But instead of punishing the coup leaders of 1986, we hailed them as heroes and even elevated one of them to the presidency and two to the Senate. So the message delivered is that coups are good and a short-cut to high office.

Soldiers cannot understand why the 1986 coup against Marcos was good but the 1989 coup attempt against Cory Aquino was bad. Or why the 2001 "constitutional coup" that toppled President Estrada was good but the July 27, 2003 Makati "mutiny" that tried to do the same thing to President Macapagal-Arroyo was bad. Why were the coup plotters in one rewarded and those in the other are being punished?

The answer to that, of course, is that in the 1986 and 2001 coups, the plotters won, but in the 1989 and 2003 tries, they lost. The victors always write the rules in their favor, in the same way that the spoils of war belong to them. Had Japan won the Pacific War, General Yamashita would have supervised the hanging of General MacArthur instead of the other way around. Had Germany won the war in Europe, history would have recorded Roosevelt and Churchill as war criminals and Hitler as a world hero.

Lucero was asked: Why did you join the 1989 coup attempt? What motivated you to do it?

Answer: He sincerely believed at that time that that was the way to save the country from the ills besetting it—graft and corruption notably. He knows better now and admits that he was wrong then, as others who would try to do the same would be wrong now.

* * *

During the discussions, Biazon revealed that the United States was already orchestrating the coup against Marcos as early as 1985. He said that in mid-1985, a year before the coup that toppled Marcos, operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (he mentioned General Singlaub) as well as some Makati businessmen (he gave their names) were recruiting him to join the coup but that he rebuffed their repeated attempts.

If you will recall, it was the threatening flight of an American Phantom jet and Marcos' phone conversations with US Embassy and Washington officials that prompted him to throw in the towel and allow himself and his retinue to be evacuated, on board US helicopters and planes, to Paoay, Ilocos Norte, which turned out to be Hawaii.

The Makati mutineers were reported to have called US military officers in the US Embassy for help when it became obvious that their mutiny was going up to fail. Could it be that the United States also had a hand in this one?

Good points

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AQUILINO Pimentel had a very nice, if trenchant, letter last Tuesday. (PDI, 8/12/03) There is simply no comparison, he says, in the way Cory and GMA have handled the coups against them.

To begin with, the coups against Cory were serious, the one against GMA was not. "The Makati incident, even if it were called a coup, was pitifully planned, amateurishly mounted, and had only minimal support among the military, and hardly any among civilians."

Cory used only constitutional sanctions against the mutineers, GMA has not. GMA "resorts to ill-defined, if not outright unconstitutional methods like the proclamation of a state of rebellion to justify warrantless arrests. Incidentally, the government assurance that Sen. Gregorio Honasan would not be arrested without a judicial warrant flies in the face of the equal protection of the clause of the Constitution. What is accorded the senator should also be accorded the lowliest citizen."

On record, "the Senate has condemned the Makati incident. We have done so unanimously...we expressed support for the present administration...In supporting the government and the Constitution, there is no requirement that we express that support in terms of fawning sycophancy. Otherwise, we diminish the independence of the Senate."

And "finally, for heaven's sake, Gloria is not Cory!"

Those are very good points.

I'm not surprised Nene has seen through the anomaly of Honasan being given special assurances. Even when I was criticizing Nene in the past for being part of Erap's retinue, I kept praising him for his consistency in espousing human rights and civil liberties. In that respect at least, he remained independent. He seizes on an important point now.

This isn't the first time the GMA government has practiced double-standards. It did so right after "Edsa III," or more specifically after the riot at Mendiola. Police and soldiers promptly rounded up the people who wore tattered T-shirts and even more tattered faces. They swooped down at night on the huge slum area in front of Philippine Science High School and invaded homes—even shanties made of billboards sporting the grinning faces of candidates from previous elections are homes—turning their occupants out and lining them up for inspection.

When all the time, in full view of the cameras, Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Santiago, Tessie Oreta and others kept goading the throng gathered at Edsa to *"sugod"* to Malacañang. None of them was ever punished for it, or ever endured the inconvenience of being arrested and made to "play the piano" at the police station. If I remember right, Miriam even made it a point to place a revolver on her table for the benefit of TV reporters, daring the authorities to come and arrest her. I don't know that the authorities later asked her to produce a license for it. But quite apart from that, surely, gentlemen, that is resisting arrest?

All of which reduces to absurdity GMA's suggestion that the coup against her took place because past governments failed to punish their authors. Even if that were true, she has no business lecturing others on the wisdom of punishing the authors—the real ones, the masterminds—of crimes against the state. Pimentel is right: The law is applied equally or it is not law at all. Either you arrest everyone, or you arrest no one.

The part about GMA not being Cory is not just witty, it's true. It does help that the person you want defended with other people's lives deserves it. Cory deserved it, notwithstanding that her rule gave her *kamaganak* open season with the recovered national wealth, particularly the sequestered corporations. She had toppled Marcos and despite a horrendous human rights record (she unleashed the vigilantes and paramilitary troops) had rebuilt the pillars of democracy. You don't mind being a little more personal in your defense of her. It is not easy to feel the same way about GMA.

It's true: Nowhere does the Constitution require the legislature to support an embattled government with fawning sycophancy. I was surprised when Joker Arroyo made that remark last week castigating Congress for being less than ardent in its support for GMA and even calling for an investigation of the mutineers' charges. In fact, the legislature did right to call for an investigation of those charges. They are not vague or trifling charges, they are grave and definite ones. Investigating them does not preclude punishing the accusers for their sins. I personally would like to know who bombed Davao. That was the single cause of the MILF being dragged into the "war against terror."

I've said too that I support the government GMA represents, but not GMA. It's not just hair-splitting, it's separating chaff from grain. It is an important distinction. The choice is not, as Joker suggests, between a militarist adventure and a democratically constituted government. The choice is between a militarist power grab and a militarist power stranglehold. To support GMA personally, and not just the office she occupies, is to support the policies she has unleashed that has turned this country into a militarist's paradise.

Policies that have made the military supreme once again, that threaten to raze civil liberties if they have not done so already, that have raised a martial culture in place of a democratic one. Policies that have put Angelo Reyes, Roilo Golez, Prospero Pichay, Rodrigo Duterte and Wahab Akbar in charge of national and foreign affairs in lieu of the Cabinet, the DFA, and the various elements, including civil society, Edsa II represented. Policies that have turned the dreams of Edsa II into the nightmare of a war-mongering state.

Why on earth would I want to support something like that?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Coup hearings better than telenovela

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE FELICIANO Commission has been conducting its hearings over TV the last two days, and from the looks of it, *lalangawin ang* Senate and House hearings if they insist on conducting separate inquiries into the Oakwood rebellion. Perhaps the two chambers of Congress should consider winding up their inquiries and just watch the Feliciano Commission in action. My assistant Gina Duran put it well when she said that the rebellion hearings reminded her so much of the Senate impeachment trial. I can see how the Feliciano Commission hearings will grip the nation anew, becoming more consuming than any telenovela, just like Erap's trial. It also promises to be very educational to the people, just like the impeachment.

* * *

Early impressions: It was good judgment to open it to full public scrutiny, as it demythified the rebels and caught them on TV with all their strengths as well as their inconsistencies. I suspect that the audience came to view Capt. Milo Maestrecampo with mixed emotions, as he looked cocky and had a glint of anger in his eyes (he is reported to be the most radical of the rebel officers). Sometimes he was funny, but always quite spontaneous in his antics, driving lawyer Mario Ongkiko crazy at times. Maestrecampo's testimony on the poverty in Mindanao was touching, but it also accentuated the errant means he used to right the wrong. In fact it was quite disturbing to note that he seemed not to know that what he did was wrong. If this outlook dominates the thinking of the young officers who will occupy higher posts in the future, then this country is in big trouble. Retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano presided over the hearings quite ably and soberly. Homobono Adaza, lawyer of the rebel officers, was acting true to form—articulate, noisy and funny at times. Ongkiko was methodical and calm.

* * *

There were expectations of bombshells, but the real bombshell came from Ongkiko. The testimony of Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV went smoothly and had its ups and downs, but the high point came at the last minute, and it was doubtless deliberate on Ongkiko's part. Earlier Trillanes was asked whether Sen. Gregorio Honasan was present at a gathering where there was reported bloodletting Katipunero-style, and he flatly denied it. Then Ongkiko confronted the naval officer with two photos showing Honasan sitting right next to him (released by Malacañang), and Trillanes was forced to say the person looked like Honasan.

* * *

Trillanes was quoted as saying that disgruntled military personnel are filing "hundreds" of affidavits about corruption in the military. However, it is easy to make charges and these have to be backed up by documentation. Trillanes made three charges but only offered duplicates or copies of documents. For instance, the allegations that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and resigned Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus "masterminded" the Davao bombings or that top military officials sold weapons and ammunition to the enemies of the state are very serious and should be supported by evidence. Otherwise they become wild accusations and make the people suspect the rebel leaders are highlighting their grievances only to drown out the political component of the rebellion. As another columnist put it so vividly, the impression so far is that theirs is "idealism for rent." They also doubtless realize that highlighting grievances might get them perhaps a lighter sentence.

* * *

This is not to say that the rebel officers don't have valid grievances—far from it. But the problems they have raised are mainly systemic and solutions cannot come overnight. It needs massive effort and dedication and political will to solve them, and staging coups will only aggravate matters. I'm glad the President has set in motion an investigation of the problems in the Armed Forces such as corruption in the higher ranks. For instance, the AFP leadership sent me documents to show that the implementation of salary increases in the AFP began in October last year; the second tranche came last January 2003, and the third and last tranche will come in January 2004, eight years faster in the Philippine National Police. By 2004, the salaries of AFP personnel will be at par not only with those in the PNP but also with those of public school teachers. Under the table of new salary rates, the highest ranking enlisted personnel now earn over P12,000 a month, and by next January they will earn P13,715. On the other hand, the privates who now make P7,190 a month will be receiving P8,605 by January 2003. Indeed the soldiers have come a long way from the 1960s.

* * *

Sen. Teresa Oreta's office disputed a column item here that said that she had been quite *malabo* in her stand on the July 27 rebellion. Her chief of staff, Brian Raymund Yamsuan, stressed that Oreta was among the first to condemn the rebellion and that she never believed in a power grab "through extra-constitutional means." I'm heartened that Ninoy Aquino's youngest sister is quite committed to constitutional rule. But I also wrote earlier that my sources indicated that she had been hosting the group of Trillanes in her home before the rebellion; in fact this was borne out in the rebel officer's testimony made to President Macapagal, as cited by her junior-aide-de-camp, Capt. Cris Magdangal. GMA's aide was quoted by the media as saying that Trillanes told the President last July 13 that he had attended meetings in Oreta's house as early as 2001, tackling the power energy problem. Sources say that she had hosted Trillanes' group several times.

The usual suspects

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

WHEN news of the mutiny broke out, the sentiment of the majority seemed to be one of exasperation, if not indifference. That explains why despite the mutiny, many people seemed to be going through the normal routines of their lives. Finally, when information started to trickle in especially as regards the possible involvement of the "usual suspects"—the elements from past regimes—the exasperation turned to anger and frustration. Why can't we break free from the shadows of Marcos' dictatorial rule? Why can't we just move on? It's hard enough to live in the present century, trying to keep pace with other countries; the last thing we need is for another mutiny to hurl us back to the past, to derail us from our development efforts.

Sadly, we can expect this kind of destabilization happening again in the future. This country has so much unfinished business from its recent past. Many things remain unresolved such as the assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr. Holdovers from the Marcos regime seem to enjoy their public lives with impunity. Several of the supposed candidates in the 2004 elections had been connected one way or another to the great dictator.

Consequently the greatest victim of this sad state of affairs is the country's sense of morality, our sense of what is right and what is wrong. Small wonder then that corruption is imbedded in many of our institutions. As long as the questions of the past are not resolved in the interest of truth and justice, the country will never be united. If we are not one in our view of the past, much less we can be in agreement in our vision of the future. As long as the dictatorship of the past is not held accountable for its crimes, the country will never be the "strong republic" that the administration envisions it to be.

> As long as the questions of the past are not resolved in the interest of truth and justice, the country will never be united

The eminent sociologist Emile Durkheim once pointed out that society penalizes crime because, more than anything else, it is society's way of reinforcing and firming up its value system. By affirming that an action is right or wrong, society is forming the citizen's sense of right and wrong, the country's standard and norm for truth and justice. That is how crucial it is in the life of a society that the concerns of its past—to the extent possible—are resolved.

Fortunately for the country, in recent weeks, a kind of resolution, a kind of closure of the past has been achieved. Although overshadowed by the mutiny, the recent decisions of the Supreme Court on the P38-billion Marcos Swiss accounts and before that the Sandiganbayan's ruling on the coconut levy case are of great importance. On one hand, these judicial decisions free up large sums of money that the cash-strapped government can use for its economic and social programs. Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, any recovered ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses shall be used to finance the agrarian reform program. Already on its 15th year of implementation, the program has not really been successful because of the serious lack of funds for the purchase and distribution of private lands. With this new development however and hopefully if the P38 billion survives the vultures in Congress, the funds will be a shot in the arm for the agrarian program.

The same can be said of the Sandiganbayan's decision on the coco levy funds. Millions of coconut farmers stand to benefit from this. These available funds likewise will help alleviate the poverty-stricken lives of these small farmers, and hopefully revive the sagging coconut industry.

But more important than these financial gains, the Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan's pivotal decisions (and hopefully more in the future) send a strong message and make a serious judgment about the Marcos regime and its crony system. They serve to resolve persisting questions about the past. They aim to right the wrong and thereby reaffirm the nation's sense of value, its sense of what is right and wrong. In this view, these decisions open a new page in our history. Coming to terms with our past, we can now start moving on.

Darna!

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

DARNA, the flying, kicking superPinay crimebuster and defender of the downtrodden who came to life more than 50 years ago, lives on and has become a Pinoy pop icon.

She has flown out of the comics pages to grace the movie screen many times and has been played by noted movie actresses from several generations. Darna never grows old and Filipinos never tire of her.

Now, for the first time, she comes alive on stage, singing, dancing, pirouetting, somersaulting in mid-air. Go catch "Darna," Ballet Philippines' dance-musical adaptation of Mars Ravelo's 1950s comics superwoman, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (until Aug. 17).

In case you didn't know, Darna was almost 30 years ahead of American television's Wonder Woman. Darna was Ravelo's Filipino and female version of Superman, his tribute to his own strong mother and therefore to Filipino womanhood.

I was at the free matinee show last Saturday, which was sponsored by the Zobel de Ayalas for schoolchildren, their parents and teachers to enjoy. The CCP was overrun by children and indeed it was so heartwarming to see so many children so happy.

"Darna" isn't all ballet and music by the way. It is the product of different art forms: dance theater, music, production design—plus electronic technology, aerial movement and mountaineering rigging design.

Ravelo's first Wonderpinay wasn't named Darna but Varga. He and illustrator Nestor Redondo brought Varga to life in 1947 in Bulaklak magazine. Varga's life was short because her creators had a misunderstanding with the publishers. But in 1950, Varga was reincarnated in Pilipino Komiks as Narda/Darna whose name was inspired by Ibong Adarna, the bird in Philippine myth.

Darna starts off as Narda, the village girl who, with her kid brother Ding, was raised by a wise grandmother who possessed a magic stone or amulet. In the stage version this stone is given to the grandmother by an Aeta. The lola bequeaths the stone to Narda before her spirit leaves for the next world and just as a volcano explodes and threatens to destroy the village. Narda and Ding flee to save themselves. Arman, Narda's love interest, escapes too.

It is when the volcano's pyroclastic fury confronts Narda and Ding that the magic stone is sorely needed and is nearly lost. Narda cries out to Ding for the magic stone. Prodded with a dialogue balloon, the audience shouts too in unison: "*Ding, ang bato!*"

The stone transforms the comely Narda into a formidable Darna in a skimpy two-piece outfit, with winged headpiece and metallic leg and arm bands completing her aerodynamic attire. She flies! The rest is action and adventure. Narda becomes Darna only when there is danger and evil to be conquered. Her power is unleashed in the big bad city.

Art and technology conspire to bring the best out of this Filipino folk/pop tale. And where's the ballet, you ask? Here's something I read in a book on the performing arts that eased my befuddlement. "It is now sometimes impossible to tell where ballet ends and mime, acrobatics, social dancing or just vaguely expressive movement begins. Ballet dancers are now even called upon to speak or sing and to do naturalistic acting instead of just conveying meaning and emotion through dance and conventional mime." There.

Whenever Darna comes into the scene she is almost always airborne. She does not need toe shoes. Here, grace and agility need stage technology to make possible flight and mid-air fights. The Australian Embassy contributed expertise in that department.

Well, the effort to make the scenes comics-like was evident, but I thought it wasn't all there. The video wall that projected the sound effects as words on a comics page (*Pok! Bang! Praak!* etc.) was rather dim. Good thing the real sounds made up for it.

"Kenkoy" the long-running Tony Velasquez comics character also made it to the stage but as a musical. "Darna" is more ambitious. It is a ballet-musical, with high-tech requirements for high-flying action and physical safety; it is theater trying to be comics, an old tale trying hard to be X-gen. Well, as the flyer says, "Darna" is "a mind-blowing media event, flying, kicking, fighting, singing; toe shoes and techno, Ongpin en pointe, a diva contrabida with a bad hair lifetime." *Gets mo?*

Stage director and lyricist Chris Millado describes "Darna" as *agimat, ukay-ukay* and Pinoy pop; a magic brew with a dash of techno and a splash of neo-Filipino. So congratulations to you, and to Jesse Lucas (composer/arranger) and Denisa Reyes and Alden Lugnasin (choreography) and to all those in the cast.

Here was a Pinoy smorgasbord or whatever you wanna call it, and the child in me was truly entertained.

Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Bionic Woman, Batman and Robin, The Incredible Hulk, our very own Darna—their stories typify society's cry for justice and need for defenders and heroes. We cheer them on, we cry, "*Ding, ang bato!*" We cannot allow them to fail.

Darna is the female avenger archetype, strong but compassionate. Ding is the quintessential sidekick/little brother, the lola, what psychologist Carl Jung calls the Great Mother archetype. Valentina is the destructive, scheming one, snake hair and all. The benevolent versus the malevolent.

These archetypes are found in the myths and legends of different cultures. They persist in modern-day and even futuristic tales. The weak rises and becomes strong, the mighty is thrown down from the throne. One undergoes transformation into beauty and strength, the other transmogrifies into evil and ugliness. Danger pervades but redemption is at hand.

Darnaaaa!!!

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

To an old man

YOUNG BLOOD

Sharmaine Galve

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I ONLY heard about your death today. I haven't been around your lot lately, the reason being that I don't drive as often as I used to. I get so tired mentally and physically after going through all that traffic it's just not healthy to drive anymore. Besides, I find more freedom being on my feet rather than driving that big, metallic heap. You should know. You were a parking lot attendant. You could even tell how much space a car required. Also, that area along Roxas Boulevard has changed, with so many one-way streets and a throng of policemen directing traffic. It's not that easy to go where you want to in your car.

I learned about your death from another *manong* who works in the parking lot. He asked me why he hadn't seen me so often lately. I asked him where you were. He told me you have been gone for two months already.

I thought that was impossible, at first. I seemed to recall having seen you recently. But then too many things are happening a lot lately that three months is not that long a time anymore, that it was just last summer just before the rains began.

I assume it was ulcer that did you in. *Manong* said something about you drinking again. He told me you were throwing up blood, and that you had been sick for some time but you had gone back to drinking.

On my way home, I cried. I knew I am a sentimental person but I didn't know how much. I wept when I stopped for the red light. My tears just kept flowing like a river although I really couldn't say why. Maybe it was because it had been two months already and I felt guilty about knowing about your death so much later. I must have felt guilty for not knowing, for not being there, for not being able to give something. Or maybe it was because death moves me like it moves a lot of people. Or maybe, although I know nothing of you and you know nothing of me, save for the make of my car and the pattern of my work hours, because we had, for lack of better word, this bond, this affinity. Some people would call it "*kagaangan ng loob.*" And that has always been how I felt about you.

You probably thought I was much closer to the other *manong*. After all we spent more time with each other. Sometimes I would give him cigarettes and we would smoke together. I was more generous to him than all the rest of you tending that parking lot, be it in the form of clothes, food, money, liquor. But the truth is, he had asked me for those things. The truth is, he is more talkative and sociable than you were. The truth is, I saved my sincerest kindness and affection toward you.

When I first found myself in your area, I was hoping I would find someone I could trust, someone I wouldn't be afraid of. I usually walk back to my car after dark alone. I am, and will remain for a long time, a stranger in your place. And the place is notorious as a haven of pickpockets, muggers, con artists and plain temperamental fools who like to act crazy. It is a simple survival technique to look for someone you can depend upon.

I trust my instincts more than logic; my leanings are more Oriental when it comes to things intangible. And what my instincts told me when I first met you was that with you around, everything would be all right. Logic told me I could only depend on myself. My instincts said there was still kindness in some people, and not all was lost.

What was it about your face that I liked? I discerned a tenderness, I suppose, a grandfatherly softness. I could tell you were a principled man, and your principle was to be good at your job and do an honest day's work. Your principle was not to feel bitter about the kind of life you lived but instead strive fore a better life. Your principle was to focus on what you could do and mind your own business.

I don't know how I could tell all that. Maybe it was because, like me, you were a silent person. And silence, I understand. Silence, I admire. Silence provides a wider space for growth and understanding. Silence, in this crowded place of ours, enables us to listen to things as they are.

I used to observe you go about your job, the care you put into it. It was as if you owned the lot instead of the government. The others would just direct the driver to an empty space. You took the time to make sure there was symmetry in the way the cars were parked so that the limited space could accommodate more. For four years, I saw you doing this several times a day.

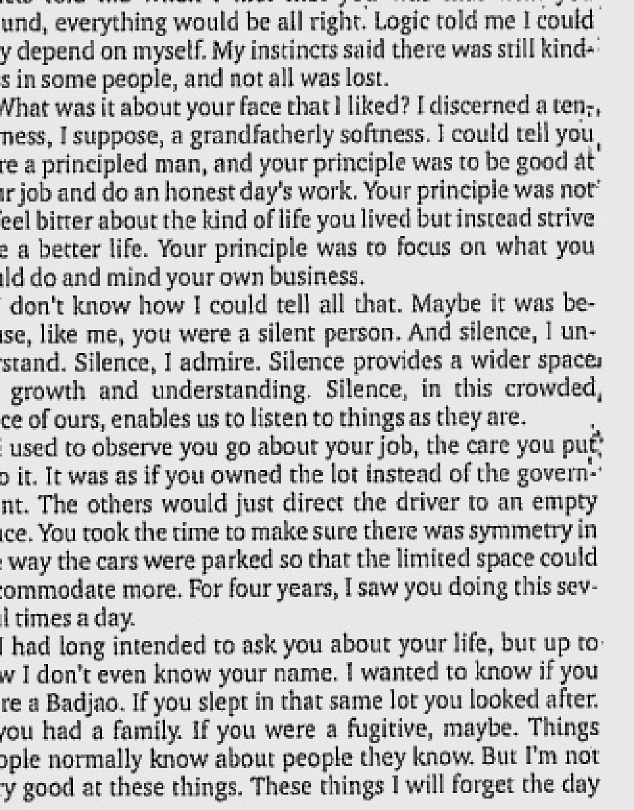
I had long intended to ask you about your life, but up to now I don't even know your name. I wanted to know if you were a Badjao. If you slept in that same lot you looked after. If you had a family. If you were a fugitive, maybe. Things people normally know about people they know. But I'm not very good at these things. These things I will forget the day after tomorrow.

But I know you in the light of what I have seen about you. I know you are a good man, a kind man, a Little Prince in your planet running things to the best of your ability.

I hope I won't forget you. But I just might. At my age, I still have a long way to go, and that is why I decided to write this: so that I will never forget. Because while I may not be able to hold on to my memory of you for so long, written words are here to stay, according to someone whose name I can no longer recall.

Sharmaine Galve, 28, manages a pawnshop.

IN THE NEWS



Victor Corpuz

Real revolution is of heart and mind

I WAS in Chicago when my daughter "texted" me about a coup attempt. There had been some talk about it weeks before but no one really paid attention as its failure was never in doubt. You cannot overthrow the government cold-turkey unless there is a natural groundswell for it. And that takes time to build up, before the citizenry accepts and fights at the risk of life and limb, for reasons moral and legitimate. Like the way it was with Marcos and Estrada.

If the putschists were prepared to sacrifice their careers and lives for their cause, they should have staged a mute rally, out of uniform and sans weapons, against our social ills; and filed cases before the Ombudsman against those they deem to be corrupt. This way they would not have violated the Constitution and the Revised Penal Code, damaged further an already injured AFP and given the enemies of the state the opportunity to move into their abandoned positions. And if they did not appear naive, arrogant, rabid and politically manipulated as they were by media's accounts, the public may have lent a more sympathetic ear to what they were trying to convey.

Two years after the 1989 coup attempt, the Philippines became Asia's sick man. The economy was in a shambles, escalating the Filipino's diaspora throughout the globe. With more coup talk rocking our mediocre economy today, the further impoverishment of the nation takes precedence over the ills that we may all be griping about. This act of stupidity foisted by persons imbued with self-importance, also known as the same cast of "coupmedians" who have never improved their bad script, screenplay, direction and production since the late '80s, should not go unpunished this time around.

Sure, our brand of democracy is flawed. Sure, there are many things that we detest and risks we must face to put things in their proper places. Sure, our leaders lack many qualifications to bring our country out of its inter-generational self-inflicted mess. Sure, society is soft and government is weak. But a power grab by ill-prepared messiahs whose only recourse is to solve our problems behind the barrel of the gun puts them in the same league as the NPA and the MILF. They must pay, especially those politicians and financiers who took advantage of their naiveté to cause more trouble for the already burdened Filipino. Let's see how a strong republic should be.

That said, if we, the people, begin to think that we are part of the problem, we will be on our way to a lasting solution to the regurgitating moral and legal predicaments that have progressively shattered the quality of our lives. The only way is to start with the self, to start at home in doing things right, as difficult as they might be, and plunge into the real revolution of heart and mind to bring us out of our silly charades and self-imposed misery.

—RAFAEL M. ALUNAN III,
63 9th Street, New Manila, Quezon City

Walk your talk, Father Shay

I READ with interest Shay Fr. Cullen's letter of Saturday, July 26, where he said "the children are beaten and kicked, made to eat spoiled food off the concrete floor, doused with buckets of water."

The man does not learn. Any information about child abuse is not for sensationalizing but for ACTION. Why has he not filed charges against the alleged perpetrators, rather than publicizing this alleged abuse? Simple: he has no proof. If he did, he would not need to make mention of it until the perpetrators were properly punished.

Can he prove his accusations that children were beaten and kicked, that children were forced to eat off the concrete floor and given spoiled food? Can he prove that they were doused with buckets of water? Then he should file charges in a court of law, and bring the alleged abusers to justice, according to the law. If Father Cullen had proof of such abuses, why doesn't he help alleviate the problem by apportioning some of the worldwide donations he receives to improve facilities in prisons for children? After all, talk is cheap.

His letter was supposedly intended to express dismay over the escape of adult terrorists. Why did he make mention of the alleged ill-treatment of children in detention when it had nothing to do with the escape? Father Cullen claims to "protect" children's rights while in fact doing little more than making accusations to embarrass one and all.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Justice should take steps to prevent such abuses as Father Cullen heaps just so to embarrass overworked officials who toil beyond duty hours, in an environment chronically lacking in supplies, facilities and resources.

—A.D. EDMONDS,
Purok 6, West Dirita,
San Antonio, Zambales 2206

A visitor's hope for the Philippines

I WRITE as a visitor from the United Kingdom who in a short time has learned to love the peacefulness of the Philippines and is at the same time distressed by the dark clouds of political and spiritual anguish which I see hanging over your beautiful islands. It is demoralizing for your people to realize that corruption is widespread in both the church and the state.

I would love to be able to offer you a quick-fix solution to your problems, but I cannot. Neither can I afford to be complacent, since we have the same problems in our own country, though, perhaps, not quite as obvious. Rather I feel that we need to share your sense of guilt, since these problems, common to Third World countries, arose in part from the injustices of the wealthy nations. They gnaw from the inside like a grub in the middle of an apple that looks healthy.

I shared your people's joy over the peaceful Edsa I Revolution, and now I share your fear that the good won there might soon be lost. If corruption is allowed to continue unchecked, it will in the end surely destroy your wonderful nation. Already you have seen the signs: the "escape" of Al-Ghozi and the attempted coup last July 27. I do not need to remind you that if you do not find a peaceful solution to the problem, your country might once again have to go the difficult way of bloodbaths.

Yours is a nation with one great asset: there is a widespread love of God. It can be seen in the Catholic and non-Catholic churches and in the mosques. You do not need another coup d'etat. Why can you not do as the city of Niniveh did when the prophet Jonah predicted their ruin? They united in prayer, they fasted, they tore their garments, until the anger of God was averted.

I believe that there is yet hope for the Philippines. May God continue to bless your children!

—JAMES HEYES.
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Half-baked reforms in the bureaucracy

THE MACAPAGAL administration's current move to "rationalize" the bureaucracy is but a mere palliative to the budget deficit and inefficiency in the public sector. A proposed executive order would send some 10,000 government employees either out of work through voluntary retirement and abolition of government agencies or for the luckier ones, a reassignment.

The government says this would address redundancies in functions, and would mean an annual savings of P8 billion from the salaries of those who choose to retire voluntarily.

But how can this lead to greater efficiency when some of the agencies identified for abolition play very crucial roles in empowering the poor? Two of these agencies are the Telecommunications Office (Telecom) which provides telefax services to the many far-flung areas in the country, and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) which promotes and coordinates volunteer programs for marginalized sectors in society. Why not strengthen efforts to crack down on graft and corruption instead? P8 billion is peanuts to the P91 billion a year which goes to the pockets of corrupt politicians and government officials.

Also, the absence of any provision on retraining in the proposed executive order can only lead to greater inefficiency, since those who choose to be reassigned in another government agency have only two destinations— the Department of Health or the Department of Education. But these agencies do not need additional people to do paperwork—what the DOH badly needs is more health professionals while the DepEd needs more teachers. What alarm government employees the most is how this move was railroaded without any consultation.

Yes, the public sector undoubtedly needs to be reformed. But the reforms that work are those which are borne out of genuine consultations with stakeholders. Half-baked reforms that are meant to hasten the process, more often than not, only worsen the problem.

—ANNIE ENRIQUEZ-GERON,
general secretary,
Public Services Labor Independent
Confederation (PSLINK), 15 Clarion Lily St.,
Saint Dominic Subd. I, Congressional Avenue,
Project 6, Quezon City

New terrorists and armalite rifles

TOO much of the military is out of control. It seeks a bigger budget to buy artillery shells which perhaps kill a carabao and create more rebels. How does a howitzer shell know the difference between a carabao, a communist, or a child?

The new terrorists, called military officers, failed in a coup, but want to run the country like one of their buddies who also failed, and now wants to be president. The traitors to their oath made a mistake. They alleged that some in the military sold arms to the enemy. All that is needed is for the armed forces to produce the armalite rifles that they keep capturing from dead rebels and compare the serial numbers with the points of issue. Why isn't this done? Another case of intelligence failure, or is there a money motive?

—ANTONIO S. CRUZ,
LV Locson Bldg., Makati
and Ayala Avenues,
Makati City

Thank God for our 'movers'

OUR country has so many problems that it would probably take three generations to solve all of them. This country is poor. Very poor. Our minimum wage earners can hardly get enough food and shelter. Our national debt has reached trillions of pesos and God knows when we will be able to pay all of it.

Fortunately, we have "movers" in this country. There are many actually. They are the people who work and strive hard to keep the company that they work for moving and give their employers a motivation to invest and expand and provide more jobs to get this economy going. They are the honest government workers who want to improve government service and cut corruption. They are the overseas Filipino workers who send almost everything they earn to feed their family at home and feed this country with much needed foreign currency.

The recent coup attempt is a working man's nightmare. It was a complete betrayal of trust. It pulled us down the drain again. Our peso dropped, business has suffered. Who will pay for all this mess? Not the coup plotters—mind you. Their punishment is only in flesh! It is us, the ordinary working Filipino. We will be the sole victims of their greed.

We are like a ship which always seems to go where the storm is. Much worse, we have these "loose cannons" who will make sure that our vessel will sink and never make it to dry land.

—NOEL CARPIO,
1 Molave St., Ramax Subdivision,
Diliman, Quezon City

Voters should decide GMA's fate in 2004

WHY can't President Macapagal-Arroyo run for president in the 2004 elections?

Because she should have *palabra de honor*? That is a lame excuse. The President should have the liberty to change her mind if the circumstances warrant. Most importantly, the people should have the freedom to judge whether *palabra de honor* is more important than the people's welfare.

The essence of democracy is the vote. Whether or not President Macapagal will remain in office after 2004 should be determined by a fair and honest counting of the ballots.

It seems that the President's political detractors would do everything to distract her from what she has vowed to accomplish.

—EDNA S. CUARTERO,
San Vicente, Buhaynasapa,
San Juan, Batangas

Pinoy 'feng shui'?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"CAN we have the southeast side please? It's a good *feng shui* direction."

I was proposing where the anthropology faculty might be located in a proposed new faculty center at UP Diliman. Our campus architect sort of frowned, "If everyone insists on one particular location then we're going to have problems."

I laughed and explained that I was saying that tongue-in-cheek. I can imagine many architects going berserk when they have clients who insist on all kinds of *feng shui* arrangements. Traditionally, the correct practice of *feng shui*, which affects everything from architectural blueprints to the positioning of furniture and interior décor, is believed to bring prosperity, harmony and general well-being to the household. Incorrect *feng shui*, on the other hand, brings material ruin, family conflicts, ill health and a host of other disasters.

All cultures have variations of geomancy although the Chinese and Indian (*vastu vidya*) versions are probably the most elaborate. These systems emerged in the context of agricultural societies with communities looking for ways to build their living spaces in a way that would allow them to tap natural resources while minimizing their vulnerabilities to natural disasters. The Chinese version shows the fixation over winds (*feng*) and water (*shui*), which shouldn't be surprising when you think of an agricultural environment.

Certainly, crass commercialism has entered the practice of both *feng shui* and its Indian counterpart, but I look at geomancy as an early version of human ecology, an understanding of how our lives need to fit into nature. In this 21st century there can be very simple, yet scientific, explanations for some of *feng shui's* claims. Not surprisingly, geomancy has a following in the West, and there are now architects who take *feng shui* into account, such as the famous I. M. Pei who has designed skyscrapers throughout the world.

If geomancy rules are often couched in magical terms, it only reflects the world views of agricultural societies. Thus, people would talk about dangerous "arrows" in the home, referring to furniture or other objects with sharp edges. Supposedly, these were dangerous because they obstructed "*qi*" (pronounced ch'I) or energy flows. In practical terms, I would avoid furniture with sharp edges for a very simple reason: you want to reduce accidents, especially because children and the elderly have a way of bumping into such edges.

Many *feng shui* practices are grounded in social and historical contexts. For example, doors that swing out are supposed to be unlucky, causing a household to go bankrupt because wealth rushes out every time the door is opened. I suspect this belief emerged because China had a history often torn by civil strife, with warring clans and feudal warlords. In such circumstances, you can imagine how important entrances can be. Enemies could barge into communities and homes if city gates and home doors opened inwards.

Today, I would actually prefer doors that can be pushed out. Remember the horrible conflagration at Ozone disco, and how so many people died because they were stuck inside, unable to pull open the doors as people panicked and jammed the entrance?

Then there's the matter of the direction a house or office faces. In traditional *feng shui*, north-facing homes and offices are said to be unlucky, with connotations of a lack of productivity. To understand how this belief came out, we have to remember China is located in a temperate zone. The north brings in cold Siberian winds, so homes that face north can become freezing in the winter.

North-facing homes are also avoided because they get less direct sunlight. In contrast, the east is a favored direction because this is where the sun rises. I wrote, a few weeks back about how Western physicians and architects are all talking now about the beneficial effects of natural sunlight in homes and offices. *Feng shui* taps into those known effects. If your house faces east, you can imagine the effects of sunlight streaming in at dawn and staying on a few hours in the morning. Having lived in very cold countries, I've known what it's like to wake up to sub-zero temperatures and seeking out the comfort of early morning sunlight, often with my dogs and cats snuggling up as well for their share of the sun.

You might argue, then why not face west, when you can also take in light as the sun sets? Now this is where culture's symbolic functions come in. Obviously, light from a rising sun is bound to be interpreted differently from that of a setting sun. There's a difference feeling your home has the rising sun's warmth, rather than that of sunset.

In the Philippine context, I actually think there are no real liabilities about the direction a house faces. For example, the most pleasant part of my parents' home is the north side because this is where the garden flourishes, with flowers in full bloom all year round. The reason the north is so good for the garden is that it gets sunlight the whole day, from the left side (east) at dawn, all through the day as the sun moves westwards, till it sets.

A Pinoy *feng shui* would consider how much sun and wind the residents want. Our tropical sun can be quite intensive so you don't necessarily want sunlight streaming into the house all day, unless of course you're able to build your homes high, with windows strategically positioned to take in natural ventilation.

I wouldn't throw out the symbolic aspects either of *feng shui*. I think work spaces would be good in the south or east but at the end of the day, I wouldn't mind retreating to some corner or courtyard facing the west, where people can unwind. My current office at UP's anthropology department faces north, but my desk is beside a window facing west, and I've actually found myself preferring to work overtime, staying past 6 in the evening to catch the sun as it sets. It is a different experience catching the way the setting sun sets the campus glowing, taking on a magical incandescence. It is a wonderful reminder to unwind, to rid ourselves of the day's vexations and to calm the spirit in preparation for tomorrow.

Feng shui and geomancy become problematic when it takes over our lives, capitalizing on our fears and anxieties. In reality, geomancy prescribes no absolutes, instead offering ways for us to tap both nature and culture so living spaces become, truly, lived spaces.

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Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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'Kidnapped' Miss Vietnam just ran away from home

MISS VIETNAM 2002, Pham Thi Mai Phuong REUTERS

HANOI—Miss Vietnam 2002, who had been reported missing, emerged from hiding to let everybody know she's well and is just running away from home, police in the northern Vietnamese port city of Haiphong said on Wednesday.

Pham Thi Mai Phuong, 18, was reported missing by her parents on Tuesday after she had not come home for a week and witnesses reported seeing her bundled into a van.

Police said the teenager had run away to another town with her girlfriends after a dispute with her parents over their decision to send her to England for school.

"She showed up yesterday unscathed," before running away again with friends, said a policewoman in Ngo Quyen District in Haiphong city. "She said her parents pressured her to go but she prefers staying in Vietnam," the policewoman said.

In an open letter published Wednesday in Tuoi Tre (Youth) newspaper, Phuong said she was vacationing with friends, "traveling and completely safe."

"However, on the phone, my parents would not believe it because they wanted me to study overseas, while I personally would like to study and work in Vietnam. I and my family therefore have experienced some tension," her letter said.

Phuong had recently been awarded a scholarship to study business management at Luton University in England.

Phuong had appeared Tuesday afternoon at the offices of another publication, the Haiphong newspaper, to deny reports that she had been kidnapped, said deputy editor Vu Quoc Hoa.

Her father, Pham Thanh Hung, said Wednesday that his daughter had called the day before to say she was safe at a friend's house.

Hung said there had never been a family argument about whether Phuong wanted to go to Britain.

"She may have changed her mind," he said. "She may choose to study overseas or in Vietnam. We respect her decision."

Phuong was scheduled to start classes Sept. 15 in Britain.

The high school senior was catapulted to fame when she was crowned Miss Vietnam last September in what was the Communist country's first national pageant in decades. Vietnam had discouraged such beauty contests for years as a sign of capitalist decadence. *Reuters, AP*

Plot to smuggle terror missile into US foiled

NEW YORK—US authorities arrested three people on Tuesday in a sting operation that foiled a plot to smuggle a missile into the United States that could be used to shoot down a commercial airliner, officials said.

One suspect, a British citizen, was arrested in Newark, New Jersey, trying to smuggle the Russian-made surface-to-air missile into the country. Two others were arrested in New York, officials in Washington said.

The Briton believed he was selling missiles to would-be terrorists, but he was nabbed in the international sting by the FBI, British and Russian authorities, officials said.

The British Broadcasting Corp., which first reported the story with ABC News, said the suspect was a British arms dealer who successfully imported a Russian Igla missile into the United States and believed he was selling it to a Muslim extremist.

The buyer was in fact an undercover FBI agent and the arms dealer's voice is heard on tape saying he wanted the missile to be used to shoot down a large passenger plane. The FBI said it knew the missile, disguised as medical equipment, was shipped from Russia to Baltimore, Maryland, the BBC reported.

Officials at the FBI in New York and in Newark did not return calls seeking comment on the report.

The arms dealer, first spotted five months ago in St. Petersburg and Moscow, flew to New York with his wife on Sunday on a British Airways flight from London. He was followed by an FBI agent and arrested in New Jersey after he collected a package marked "medical supplies," the BBC said.

The man is an established arms dealer, thought to be a middle-aged man of Indian origin, who lives in London, it said.

In November 2002 two shoulder-launched missiles were fired at an Israeli passenger plane taking off from Mombasa, Kenya, but did not hit the aircraft.

Defense expert John Pike called the Igla a "Russian version of the Stinger," referring to the small US shoulder-launched missile designed for attacking aircraft at low altitude—possibly during take-off or landing.

Pike said the Igla was an improved version of earlier Russian-made surface-to-air missiles and would have a better chance of bringing down a passenger jet than its predecessors.

"It has a longer range and a more sophisticated heat-seeking sensor on it," said Pike, the director of GlobalSecurity.org, a non-profit defense policy group based in suburban Washington.

New York Sen. Charles Schumer said the incident illustrated the need for the US Homeland Security Department to speed up its two-year plan to develop a missile defense prototype for commercial airplanes. *Reuters*

Top Aussie spy says 9/11-like attack likely

CANBERRA—Another catastrophic attack like the Sept. 11 strikes on the United States is only a matter of time and Australia is a likely target, Australia's top spy said in comments backed by Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday.

Dennis Richardson, director general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, said Australia's close alliance with the United States had contributed to it being a possible target.

"There is a genuine concern that a catastrophic attack is a certainty and only a matter of time—a point on which I am inclined to agree," Richardson said.

"The fact that we are in close alliance with the US and the fact that we were early and actively engaged in the war on terrorism does contribute to us being a target," he said.

His comments were made at an off-the-record briefing with newspaper editors last week but released publicly in a statement late on Tuesday.

Howard said he could not argue with his chief spy's grim assessment of intelligence data.

"We need to brace ourselves for the possibility that there could be a terrorist attack in Australia, we will do everything we can to stop it occurring, but I can't promise and guarantee that it won't occur," Howard told Sky Television.

Howard was in Washington on Sept. 11, 2001, and Australia quickly joined the US-led war on terror after the airliner attacks there and in New York which have been blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

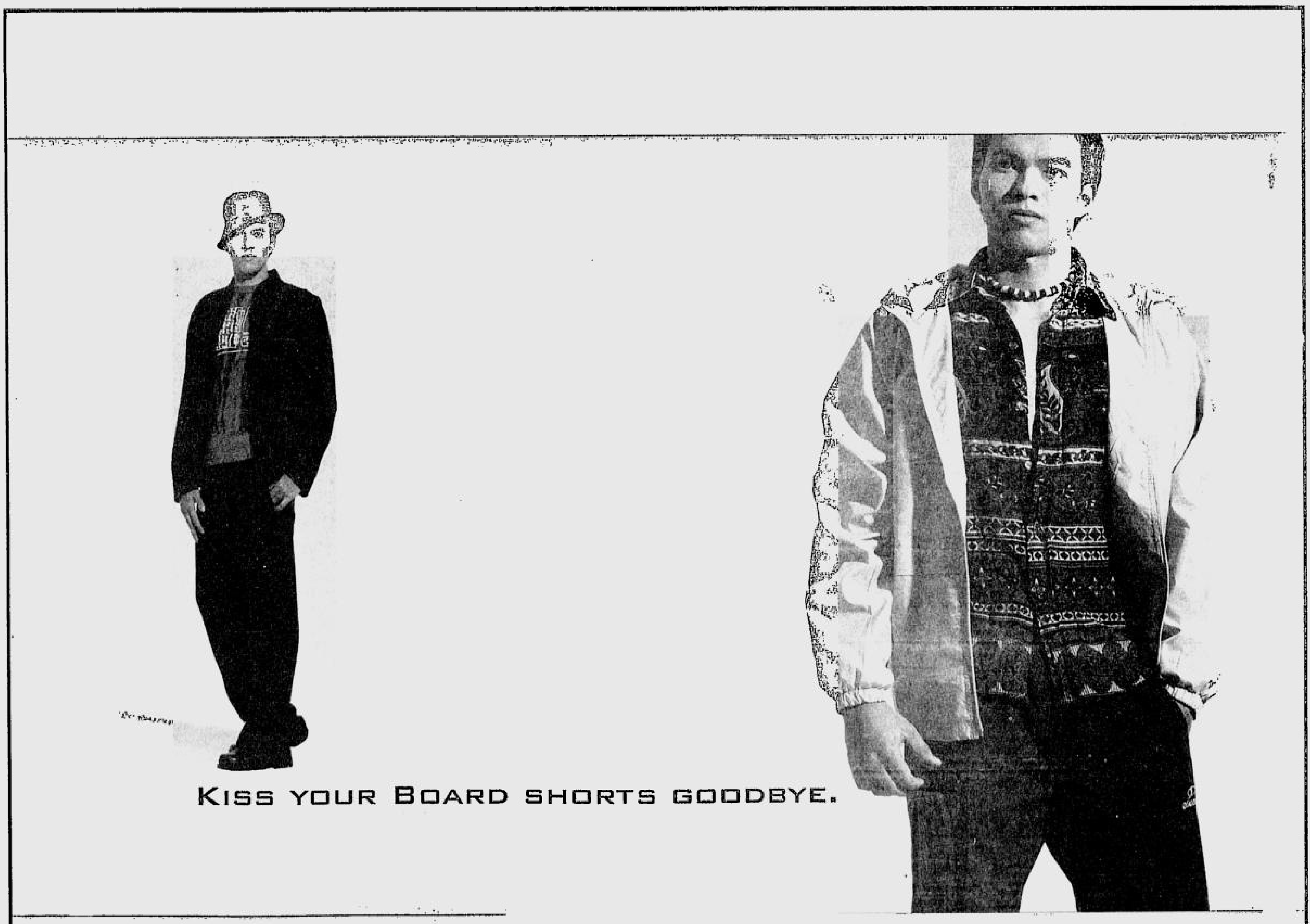
He sent troops to Afghanistan to help hunt Bin Laden and punish his Taliban protectors, and also to Iraq this year, winning strong public backing for his strong stance on security.

But Richardson said Australia was a target even before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Howard has told parliament intelligence indicated al-Qaida was exploring possible targets in Australia as early as 2000.

Australians' traditional sense of security, based largely on geographical isolation, was rocked by last October's bombings on the neighboring Indonesian island of Bali, which killed 202 people including 88 Australians.

Indonesian police believe a group called Jemaah Islamiyah, said to have links to al-Qaida, is responsible for the Bali blasts. The group is also a key suspect this month's bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, wh killed 11 people. *Reuters*



US, UK, Libya cut agreement on Lockerbie

WASHINGTON—The United States, Britain and Libya have agreed on terms for a deal under which Tripoli will accept responsibility for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, informed diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

"My understanding is that the terms are settled and all that's left are practical steps to bring it to a close," one source said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said an announcement of the deal—which would lead to the lifting of UN and possibly US sanctions against Libya—would come this week at the United Nations.

However, they stressed the UN sanctions would not be lifted unless Libya actually followed through on a stated commitment to accept responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Libya has agreed to send a letter to the UN Security Council admitting it was behind the attack on the Boeing 747 that blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988, killing all 259 people on board plus 11 on the ground, the sources said.

The sources admitted previous hopes for a deal—in which Libya would take the blame and pay compensation to the families of the 270 victims of the bombing—had fallen through, but said there was now high confidence the settlement would stick.

"People are feeling pretty good about this," a second source said.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, William Burns, who is now in the Middle East, is to return Wednesday to Washington to brief the families of the victims and the US Congress on the agreement with Libya. *AFP*

FREE HEAVENLY SHOW

People watch the moon rising over the sky of Athens, Aug. 12, from the vantage point of a hill near the airport. Thousands of Greeks flocked to the country's archeological sites, kept open to allow them to watch the August full moon, the year's largest, from a romantic setting. AFP

Virus causes computer, Internet global havoc

NEW YORK—A virus that attacks Windows operating systems caused computer and Internet havoc around the world Tuesday.

Tens of thousands of companies, government departments and home computer users across North America, Europe and Asia were hit by the Internet worm which uses the names "LovSan," "MSBlast" and "Blaster," experts said.

As well as crashing systems, the virus carries a message to Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder and chair, saying: "Billy Gates why do you make this possible? Stop making money and fix your software!!"

Microsoft provides the vast majority of computer operating systems for companies and personal computers (PCs) used around the world.

The virus attacks a weakness in Microsoft's Windows systems. Microsoft said the Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows NT and Windows Server 2003 were the most vulnerable and urged immediate action.

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MMVA), which handles driving licenses and car registrations in the eastern US state, came to a standstill on Tuesday.

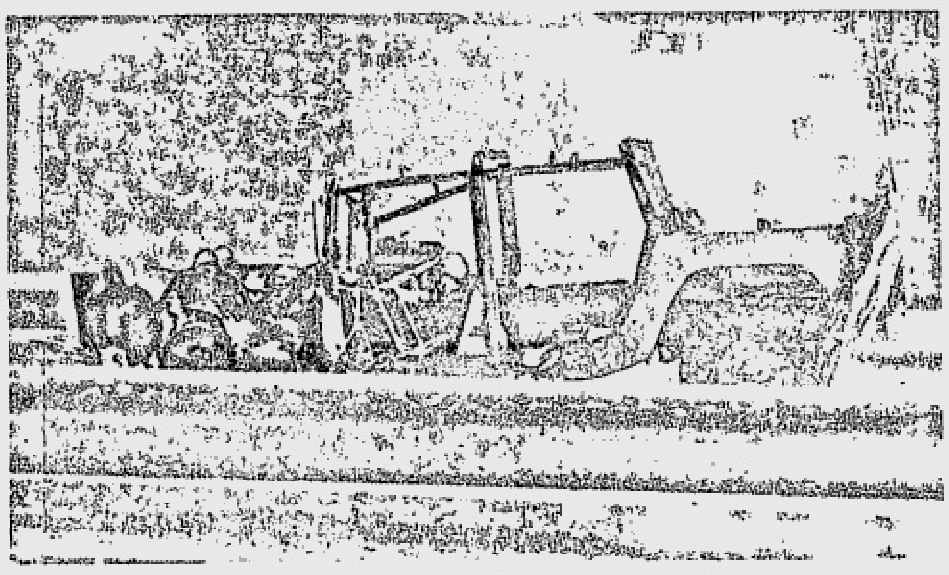
"The virus affects the whole system. We closed at noon," an MMVA official told AFP.

The infectious virus also hit the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta leading to the shutdown of most of its system, but the US financial system kept working normally.

"Last night, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta determined that a number of our systems were being infected by a worm: MSBlast.exe," said the bank's spokesperson, Pierce Nelson.

"Early this morning, most of the Atlanta Federal Reserve systems and PCs were shut down as a precautionary measure as bank staff worked to ensure that the virus was confined and eradicated." *AFP*

US soldier killed in bomb attack near Baghdad



A US army Humvee, hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, burns at the scene of an attack on a military convoy in the town of Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Aug. 12. REUTERS

BAGHDAD—A US soldier was killed and two soldiers were wounded in a bomb attack on Tuesday west of Baghdad, as Kurds near the Iranian border said they had captured dozens of militant fighters trying to infiltrate Iraq.

A US Army spokesperson said the soldier died when three synchronized bombs were detonated near a US convoy in the restive town of Ramadi.

The attack brought to 57 the number of US soldiers killed in guerrilla attacks since the start of May.

In the northern city of Mosul, a US Humvee was destroyed in a blast and witnesses said four casualties were taken away.

The US Army said it had no details.

US forces occupying Iraq come under daily attack, and Washington says die-hard Saddam Hussein loyalists and some foreign militants are behind the guerrilla campaign.

Adel Murad, a spokesperson for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said in Baghdad that Kurdish Peshmerga militiamen had rounded up 50 people near the Iranian border—some of them members of the shadowy Ansar al-Islam group, which Washington has linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Paul Bremer, Iraq's US governor, told a news conference that Ansar al-Islam was one of the groups under suspicion for a truck bomb attack on the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad last week that killed at least 17 people and wounded scores.

He said the attack was "an act of irresponsible terrorism by criminals" but it was too early to say who was to blame.

"It's possible this attack was conducted by foreign terrorists. It is also possible it was conducted by Iraqis," he said. "The investigation by Iraqi police is going forward."

"Ansar al-Islam, of course, has long-standing connections, affiliations if you wish, with al-Qaida," Bremer said. *Reuters*

Wife-beating rife in France, study reveals

PARIS—The death of actress Marie Trintignant after a heated row with her rock star lover has unleashed an outcry over domestic violence in France—where one in 10 women is beaten at home.

As an autopsy revealed that Trintignant, a classic beauty who had graced French movie screens since childhood, died from blows to the face, a year-old study resurfaced showing that her death is not that extraordinary.

Every five days a woman is beaten to death by her partner, and wife-battering in France is just as prevalent among the well-heeled as among the underprivileged, according to the government-commissioned study which was published originally in June 2002.

"Trintignant's death has shaken public opinion and smashed stereotypes about domestic violence. Even independent, assertive women can be victims," said Marie-Dominique de Suremain, head of the National Federation for Women's Solidarity.

"There are 1.5 million women in France who are abused—physically, sexually or psychologically—by husbands or partners. That implies there are 1.5 million men out there behind this violence, and you wouldn't know to look at them."

The federation, which groups 54 associations, struggles to cope with some 15,000 calls each year from battered women.

Wearing white ribbons as a sign of non-violence, some 200 supporters converged on a Paris square to lay a wreath of sunflowers in memory of victims of fatal beatings. *Reuters*

Dead British scientist believed Iraq threat was minimal

LONDON—Top British arms expert David Kelly believed Iraq's weapons posed only a minimal threat and accused the government of overplaying the risk to justify war, a BBC reporter told an inquiry into his suicide on Tuesday.

Kelly slashed his wrist last month after being named as the source for a BBC journalist's report that a British government dossier on Iraq's weapons was "sexed up" at the behest of Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications chief, Alastair Campbell.

Andrew Gilligan, the BBC defense correspondent whose May 29 report plunged Blair's government into crisis, told the judicial inquiry that Kelly told him most British intelligence experts were unhappy with the weapons dossier.

Gilligan faced tough questions over discrepancies between his account of his interview with Kelly and the scientist's own recollection. The inquiry heard that an internal BBC memo spoke of Gilligan's "flawed reporting."

But a second BBC correspondent said Kelly had expressed similar concerns about the dossier in a separate interview.

Reading his notes from his talk with Kelly, Gilligan said: Iraq's weapons "program was small. He couldn't have killed very many people even if everything had gone right for him."

Gilligan's notes also had Kelly—a former United Nations weapons inspector—referring to "no usable weapons" in Iraq.

Nearly five months after US and British forces invaded Iraq to topple Saddam no weapons of mass destruction have been found, prompting Blair's public trust ratings to plunge.

A poll this week showed 41 percent blame the government for Kelly's death and 68 percent believe it was dishonest.

Gilligan said Kelly pointed a finger at Campbell for changing the pre-war dossier, highlighting a claim that Iraq could deploy chemical or biological arms at 45 minutes' notice.

"Most people in intelligence were unhappy with it because it didn't reflect the considered view they were putting forward," Gilligan said, quoting Kelly. *Reuters*

247 candidates running for governor in California's wacky recall election

SACRAMENTO—Nearly 250 people plan to run for governor of California in the state's recall election, the secretary of state said, as county officials warned that the size of the ballot could cause major problems in staging the vote.

A total of 247 people—including celebrities such as actor Arnold Schwarzenegger—have submitted papers to run as possible replacements for Democratic Gov. Gray Davis, whose approval ratings have fallen to record lows amid a $38-billion budget deficit and voter wrath over the state's energy crisis.

Of those applications, 115 had been approved and the rest were being reviewed, according to the secretary of state's website Tuesday.

California voters are to decide on Oct. 7 whether they want to recall Davis—and whom they would want as replacement. If the recall campaign succeeds, Davis would be only the second governor in the United States to be recalled; the previous one was North Dakota's Lynn Frazier, ousted in 1921.

More Democrats than Republicans have filed candidacy papers, even though the state Democratic Party had discouraged challenges to Davis. Ninety-five of the 247 are listed as Democrats, compared to 77 listed as Republicans.

Staging the vote is posing major challenges for county elections officials, who fear problems with processing such a large ballot, including doing more work by hand.

Secretary of State Kevin Shelley urged precision over speed when polls close and conceded it could take several days to finalize results.

The expanded ballot also means both the cash-strapped state and its counties face higher costs for the special election, now estimated at a total of up to $66 million. Shelley promised Monday he will ask the Legislature for help.

He said the state's costs have ballooned from $7 million to $11 million. The rest of the money will come from counties that likely will have to dip into funds set aside for the presidential primary in March.

"It's like we're spending next month's rent or grocery bill," Michael Petrucello, assistant registrar-recorder clerk for Los Angeles County, told the Los Angeles Times. *AP*

ACTOR Arnold Schwarzenegger is shown in a scene from the 1982 film "Conan the Barbarian" in this undated publicity photograph. REUTERS

2 Palestinian teen bombers lived remarkably similar lives

By Mohammed Daraghmeh

KHAMIS JARWAN

ISLAM QTISHAT

NABLUS, West Bank—Two Palestinian teenage suicide bombers who killed Israelis in separate attacks lived remarkably parallel lives, though their families say they didn't know each other.

Both were 17 years old, peddled wares on the sidewalk and lived a few blocks apart on the same street.

Both left behind equally grotesque bombing scenes less than an hour apart Tuesday, killing themselves and one person each in an Israeli town and a West Bank Jewish settlement 18 km apart.

While neighbors blessed one of the teens as a "martyr," the mother of the second screamed for revenge against the Islamic militants who sent him to his death.

The bombings were the first since July 7. The summer has been relatively calm thanks to a ceasefire declared by the main Palestinian groups.

Since fighting erupted in September 2000, more than 350 Israelis have been killed in almost 100 Palestinian suicide bomb attacks.

One of the bombers' victims was Yehezkel Yekutieli, 42, who was buying food to make breakfast for his children. One of the dozen wounded in that attack was reported to be a pregnant woman.

The victim of the second attack was a year older than his assailant: Erez Hershkovitz, 18, had just finished army basic training.

One bomber, Khamis Jarwan, grew up in a house in an alley in the Askar refugee camp on the edge of the West Bank city of Nablus, and sold shoes on the street. He became a follower of the Al Aqsa Brigades, a violent wing of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement that claimed responsibility for the bombing.

On Wednesday, the Israeli army said it had demolished Jarwan's home with explosives. Camp residents said 11 people other than the bomber had lived there. Soldiers also arrested seven people in Nablus overnight, the army said.

Israel's army routinely destroys homes belonging to the families of suicide bombers and others involved in attacks, a policy intended to deter other would-be attackers.

Jarwan had been missing for a day, his family said. Then came the news: he rigged himself with a bomb and set it off in a supermarket in Rosh Haayin, a bedroom community near Tel Aviv.

The teen's mother wailed and neighbors began to gather to mourn, but also to celebrate him. Jarwan was honored—like other Palestinians who die in this conflict—as a "martyr."

In contrast, a few houses away, the other family mourned with anger.

Islam Qtishat, a young recruit of the Islamic Hamas group, detonated his explosives at the entrance to the West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel, not far from his home. Hamas took responsibility for his bombing. *AP*

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GMA: Samar park a protected area

By **Vicente S. Labro**, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—After over a decade of continuing struggle to protect and preserve their environment, Samareños scored a major victory when about one-fourth of the total land area of Samar Island, the country's third largest, was declared a protected area by the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed Proclamation No. 442, declaring the 333,300-hectare Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas).

The proclamation intends to conserve the remaining forests, plants and animals in the area as well as protect the ecological balance and ensure continued provisions for the population in the island.

The protected area covers 37 municipalities and one city in the provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

The signing ceremony was held in Malacañang yesterday morning and was attended by Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio, Cabinet officer for regional development (Cord) for Eastern Visayas; Bishop Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog (Samar) and Bishop Angel Hobayan of the Diocese of Catarman (Northern Samar).

Also in the ceremony were Samar Representatives Antonio Eduardo Nachura (2nd District) and Reynaldo Uy (1st District); Eastern Samar Gov. Clotilde Salazar, Samar Gov. Milagrosa Tan, Calbayog City Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento, Mondragon Mayor Elito Dapulag (Northern Samar), and Calbiga Mayor Melchor Nacario (Samar), and some officials of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project, among others.

Nachura said their next move would be to have the SINP bill in Congress approved "for this will provide the administrative structure that will really run the Samar Island Natural Park."

He said in a phone interview that it is important that the President will approve the bill because "this will institutionalize the SINP."

Nachura and all the other five congressmen from Samar Island authored House Bill No. 4764, which seeks for the establishment of the SINP.

Nacario, president of the Samar Mayors' league, also cited the need to have the SINP bills passed in Congress in order to immediately form the protected area management board that will manage the SINP.

He said they will also work for the passage of a mining moratorium ordinance in each of the three Samar provinces.

"We were able to come across partisan politics, and even physical borders (in our desire to have the SINP approved)," he happily said, referring to the support the SINP got from all sectors of society in the three Samar provinces.

Palma, for his part, said that through unity, "much could be done for the development of Samar" as the signing of the proclamation was a result of the Samareños' resolute desire to preserve the environment.

"We feel that the President listens to the (voice of) people," the Calbayog bishop said.

The signing took place four days after hundreds of Samareños on Friday joined the island-wide "Save Samar Island Caravan," which dramatized the people's desire to have the SINP proclaimed and their strong opposition to mining.

The caravan took off from different points in Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Samar and converged in Catbalogan, Samar where hundreds more of supporters joined in a symposium on the SINP.

Guardians chapter vows support for GMA

A GROUP allied with opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan in the Visayas have declared their "unconditional" support for President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Constitution.

In a statement, the Western Visayas chapter of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. said it was assuring the President of full support without asking for anything in return.

At least 187 active military officers and other members affixed their signatures in a resolution of support sent to Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Hernani Braganza last Aug. 11.

The Guardians expressed their loyalty to the Constitution as they vowed to respect the authority of the President over the Filipino people and as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

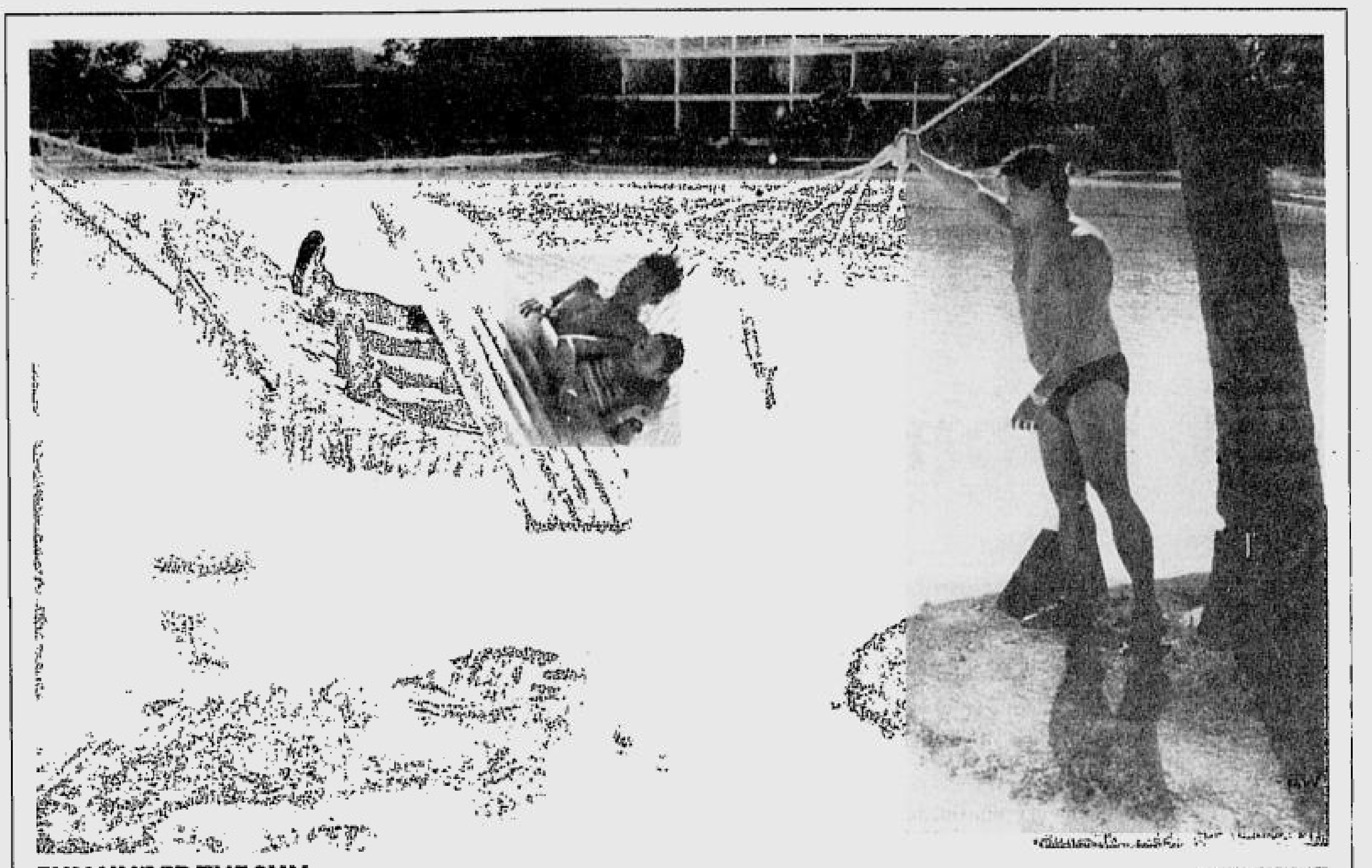
"One of our major objectives is to respect authority. We declare our loyalty to the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and support the duly constituted authority in order to attain peace and prosperity for the betterment of the country," they said in their statement.

They claimed that their support for the Macapagal administration comes ahead of their loyalty to Honasan as their national chairman. The group had blamed Honasan for failing to patch up differences and unify various factions of the Guardians.

The Guardians had broken up into several factions.

Provincial chairman Venchito Magalona and regional representative Major Steve Martin even wrote the President a letter, assuring her that officers and members of the Guardians in Western Visayas are united in their stand.

They said officers and members of the Guardians are determined to carry out the provisions of the resolution in the regional, provincial, city and municipal levels.



FUN UNDER THE SUN

A couple from Hong Kong, which was recently hit by SARS, enjoy their day in the sun at a posh resort on Mactan Island in Cebu, apparently unmindful of the scar that SARS has left their homeland.

ROMEO GACAD/AFP

ROUNDUP

2 male bodies found

ROXAS CITY—Police found the bodies of two men with multiple stab wounds on Thursday. The bodies of Henry Bernada, 19, and Wislon Samillano, 20, both of Barangay Dinginan, were found along Arnaldo Boulevard. Police have yet to determine the motive of the killings but witnesses had so far identified four suspects. Both victims were seen before midnight having a drinking spree with two companions inside a beer house in Barangay Baybay. *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Farmers given land

ROXAS CITY—A total of 266 hectares of land covered by 130 Certificates of Land Ownership Award were awarded Thursday to 249 farmers in Sapian and President Roxas towns in Capiz. The lands come from the landholdings of spouses Ishmael and Teresita Orillos of Sapian and PRIMSAN Agro Development Corp. of President Roxas. Agrarian Reform Undersecretary for finance Teddie Elson E. Rivera officiated the land distribution ceremony held during the launching of the 14th Agrarian Reform Community in Capiz. *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Free surgery as gifts

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Twenty residents afflicted with various ailments received surprise gifts from Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. during his 45th birthday celebration on Friday. The project dubbed "Libreng Opera Alay kay Mayor" provided free surgical operations to 20 residents suffering from various diseases. Among those operated on were persons afflicted with goiter, hernia and ovarian cysts. Government doctors performed the operations free of charge. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Suspected vigilante slain

DAVAO CITY—A suspected member of the Davao Death Squad killed a 22-year-old drug surrenderee shortly after midnight on Sunday. The victim was identified as Angelito Arellano, a resident of Barangay Bayview in Sasa District. He was among the first batch of alleged drug pushers and users who surrendered to the Sasa police at the height of the killings of suspected illegal drug traders. Witnesses said Arellano was standing outside his house when an unidentified man approached him. A few minutes later, gunfire was heard. The suspect fled on board a waiting vehicle. Chief Insp. Leonardo Felonia, Sasa police station commander, confirmed that the victim was among the 38 drug suspects who surrendered last month. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bolt-cutter gang man nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Palawan police arrested over the weekend the suspect who broke into a dried fish store in Coron, Palawan and stole P30,000 after destroying its padlock. Mimaropa police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid identified the suspect as Bryan Ibanez, 27, and residing in Barangay 6, Poblacion, Coron. Lapinid said they collared Ibanez after witnesses saw the suspect climbing the cemented fence of PYY Trading, owned by Chinese national Danilo Pe, after cutting the door's padlock with a bolt-cutter. During interrogation, Ibanez admitted having committed the crime. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

3 die in collision

PAMPLONA, Camarines Sur—Three persons were killed when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a Philtranco bus on Sunday at Barangay San Isidro. Police identified the fatalities as Ricardo Nollora, 42; Arlon Montanez, 28; and Zandro Ama, 24, all residents of this town. Police said the victims, believed to be drunk, were riding a Honda motorcycle driven by Nollora on their way to Naga City when it collided with the bus bound for Manila. The two victims were instantly killed while another victim was brought to the Bicol Medical Center in Naga City but died on the way. The driver of the Philtranco bus could not immediately be located. *Alan Pelayo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Groups demand stop to building of fish cages in Zambales bays

IBA, Zambales—Representatives of six people's organizations (POs) in Masinloc and Palauig towns have filed a complaint with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources against illegal fish cage operators in Masinloc and Oyon Bay marine reserve.

They cited the proliferation of illegal fish cages within the marine reserve, which was declared as a marine protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act. The reserve is governed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

The groups said the number of fish cages started to increase in 1998 when the local governments of Masinloc and Palauig began to issue permits to fish operators.

The complaint was filed by representatives of the Samahang Mangingisda ng Masinloc Riverside (Sammaris), Samahang Pangkabuhayan ng San Salvador (SPSS), Mangingisda ng Luan Adhikain ay Lumaya (Malaya), Mangingisda ng Subic Kabalikat ng Palauig (Masikap), Masinloc Agricultural Social and Industrial Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MASI-MPC) and the Pamanaka.

Jurisdiction

The groups said the local governments of Masinloc and Palauig have no jurisdiction over the Masinloc and Oyon Bay marine reserve because it is not covered by the municipal waters.

They reiterated that under the Nipas Act, the DENR and PAMB have full management authority and administrative jurisdiction over the waters and resources of the marine reserve.

"It is clear that the local governments of Masinloc and Palauig have no bases in issuing permits allowing the use of parts of the marine reserve," they said in their complaint.

Groups of fishermen in Zambales first called the attention of the DENR about the proliferation of fish cages in the reserve in June 1998.

That time, DENR officials had issued a memorandum emphasizing that the marine reserve was not included in the municipal waters of Masinloc and Palauig.

In 2000, members of Pampangisdaang Reporma Adhikain ng Samahang Mangingisda ng Zambales (Para sa Maza), a group of fishermen in this province, again brought the issue to DENR's attention. They also sought an investigation of the construction of illegal fish cages in the area.

Recently, officials of the regional Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources expressed fear over possible outbreak of fish kills due to the reported proliferation of illegal fish cages in the marine reserve.

No permits

The DENR regional office investigated the issue in December 2002 and said fish cages were operating in the area without the required environmental compliance certificate and a permit from PAMB.

The DENR investigation revealed that at least 190 illegal fish cages and pens were built in the marine reserve.

In their complaint, the groups asked the DENR to immediately issue a notice of violation and a cease and desist order against the fish cage operators to save the marine reserve from further deterioration.

They also urged the DENR to demolish all illegal fish cages in the protected area and rehabilitate the bay. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

State of calamity in Pampanga urged

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Manuel Lapid asked the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Monday to declare Pampanga under a state of calamity due to the floods affecting some 120 villages in 11 towns in the province.

Lapid, also chair of the provincial disaster coordinating council, said the provincial government's P22-million calamity fund should be used in helping residents of flooded areas.

Tropical storm "Kabayan" and the southwest monsoon brought continuous rains in the province last week and other parts of Central Luzon.

Lapid said the calamity fund would be used to buy relief goods, rice, sacks for sandbagging operations and disaster-related commodities.

He said the mayors of Pampanga's low-lying towns had asked for thousands of empty sacks to reinforce dams and anti-flood dikes with sandbags.

Also on Monday, the Candaba municipal council declared the town under a state of calamity after its villages were affected by two- to 11-foot deep floodwaters.

Candaba Mayor Normita Evangelista said 5,300 hectares of farmland and 43 hectares of fishponds had been submerged in floodwater. Some of the crops affected were due for harvest this week, she said. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Antique inmates seen pulling off robbery on truck

By **Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Two inmates of the Antique provincial jail allegedly robbed on Monday a delivery truck in Sibalom town, about 10 kilometers north of this capital town.

Witnesses identified Nicomedes Margallo and Edwin Sale as the two persons who snatched P50,000 from a cashier of a delivery truck in Barangay Igana, Sibalom.

The truck was carrying assorted goods, according to reports reaching the Antique Provincial Police Office and the San Jose police station.

The two suspects are inmates of the Antique Rehabilitation Center in Binirayan Hills here. Margallo is facing a murder charge while Sale is detained for arson.

The inmates allegedly robbed cashier Ramelin Bedia around 10:30 a.m. on Monday while she was collecting payments from their customers in the village. After snatching the money, the two suspects fled on board a motorcycle.

Quoting a report of the Sibalom police, Chief Insp. Carlito Guion, San Jose police chief, said witnesses easily identified one of the suspects as Margallo because he is from Sibalom town.

Jail warden Heracleo Severino told the INQUIRER that the two inmates were accounted for during the jail's regular inspection of prisoners at 7 a.m.

They were also inside the compound when they were checked around 1 p.m.

But he said it was possible that the prisoners could be involved. "If the victims will identify them, then that proves they are responsible (for the robbery)," said Severino.

Severino refused to allow the INQUIRER and a crew of the ABS-CBN from Iloilo City to interview the two inmates at the provincial jail, saying he did not have authority from the governor's office.

Several cases of prisoners escaping from the jail or leaving the compound without court orders have been reported

The Antique Regional Trial Court reprimanded Severino last year after Rolando Bernardino, one of the accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, escaped. Severino reported the escape to the court three months after Bernardino's escape.

The jail compound is on a hilly area. There are areas that are not enclosed by the perimeter fence.

Gov't troops fail to locate Al-Ghozi

COTABATO CITY—Government troops swooped down Monday on several villages in Maguindanao following intelligence reports that Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was sighted there.

AFP deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, in a radio interview here from Manila, said the manhunt is now a joint effort between Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas and government troops.

Garcia, also the government's ceasefire committee chairperson, said the Army's 6th Infantry Division has received "very credible" intelligence information that Al-Ghozi has slipped out of Lanao provinces and sneaked into Maguindanao's marshland.

"The MILF CCCH (coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities) promised us they would help in government's operation to recapture Al-Ghozi by giving fresh information. We appreciate their gesture," he said.

He added that the MILF participation is a big help since "they know the terrain."

At 10 a.m. Tuesday, residents in the border of Kabuntalan in Maguindanao and Midsayap in North Cotabato heard gunshots from the marshlands of Kabuntalan, a known haven of lawless elements.

An Army intelligence officer said an agent assigned to the Liguasan marsh sighted a band of armed men on Monday dawn heading toward Kabuntalan.

Elements of the Army's Task Force Tugis, backed by helicopter gun ships and armored personnel carrier, are now combing Kabuntalan as some 30 families started to leave for Midsayap.

The 6th ID information office said an Army battalion had encircled the villages where the armed men were sighted Monday afternoon.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, again cautioned the Army not to hit MILF areas. He admitted that a joint team of Army officers and MILF field commanders were in Kabuntalan coordinating the pursuit operations.

Kabuntalan Mayor Susan Samad confirmed the military build-up.

But she said the town is only a passageway of armed men because of the river.

"I assure them (military) that Al-Ghozi is not in the area," she said as she called on her constituents to "help drive off armed groups who are passing in their respective villages."

Garcia assured Samad that civilians would not be caught in the crossfire if fighting erupted in the area.

Al-Ghozi is a member of the Southeast Asian terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah and had confessed to his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila. He escaped from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City on July 14 during the state visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard along with Abu Sayyaf members Omar Opik Lasal and Abdulmukim Ong Edris.

Edris was arrested in Sultan Naga Dimaporo last week, but was killed after he allegedly tried to grab the firearm of one of his guards.

Meanwhile, Garcia said Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, commander of the 1st Infantry Division that leads the manhunt in Lanao del Norte, denied reports that he accused an MILF Commander, identified as Alloy Alfre, of coddling Al-Ghozi.

"I talked to him (Salazar) and he did not mention about an MILF commander protector of Al-Ghozi. But there are MILF forces near the site of military operations in Sultan Naga Dimaporo," Garcia said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Julie S. Alipala, Charlie C. Senase and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Doctor in Lamitan siege shot dead

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A physician and his aide were shot and killed by suspected robbers in Isabela City on Monday afternoon.

One of the victims, Dr. Julius Cesar Aguila, was assigned at the Lamitan Hospital, which was occupied by Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages on June 2, 2001.

But Supt. Bensali Jabarani, provincial police chief, said the killing had nothing to do with Aguila standing witness against government soldiers accused of colluding with the bandits.

Jabarani said the motive was robbery.

Aguila and his aide Jainuddin Jumnatal were on their way to the hospital when robbed of P357,000, which was intended for salaries of employees of the Lamitan District Hospital.

Jabarani said the suspects also took the victims' wallets. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 458 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

2 headless corpses in Ilocos identified

MAGSINGAL, Ilocos Sur—The two beheaded corpses found in a brook in Barangay Bungro on Saturday belonged to two drivers of a car rental firm, police said.

Their decomposing bodies were identified and claimed by their relatives on Monday.

The victims were identified as Romarico de Guzman, 35, and George Limtuaco, 23, both of Cabagan, Isabela, and drivers of a car rental company in Tuguegarao City.

Insp. William Neruna, Magsingal police chief, said the victims were identified through their clothes.

Neruna said the victims were tortured before they were killed.

"They were tied, blindfolded... their heads struck with a hard object before they were thrown into the brook," he said.

Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said an unidentified client rented a van from the victims' company early this month and asked them to pick up a *balikbayan* box somewhere in Ilocos Sur.

Subagan said they are trying to establish the identity of the victims' last client.

The victims had been missing for more than a week before they were found on Saturday in the Catbameng brook.

Police said the bodies were discovered by residents who went to the brook to catch fish on Saturday morning. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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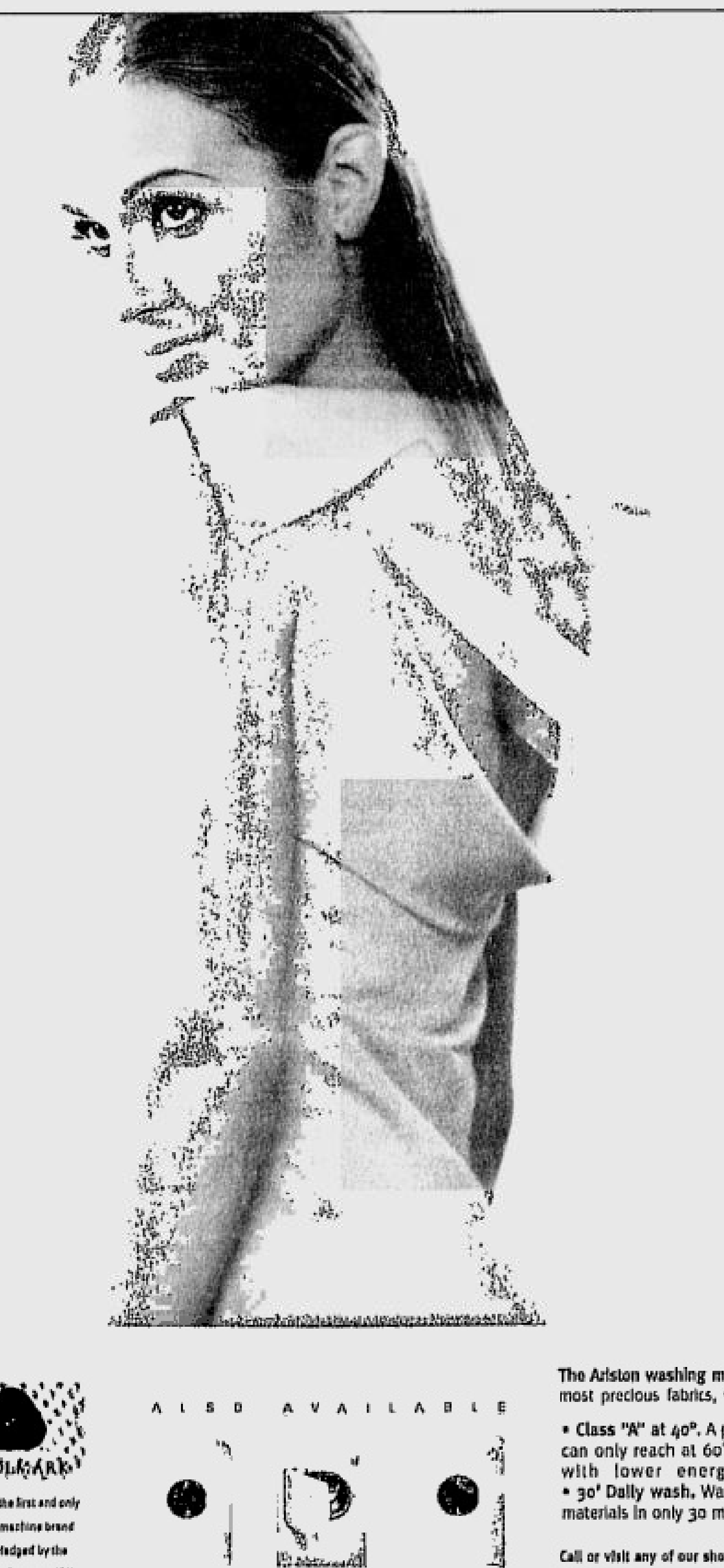

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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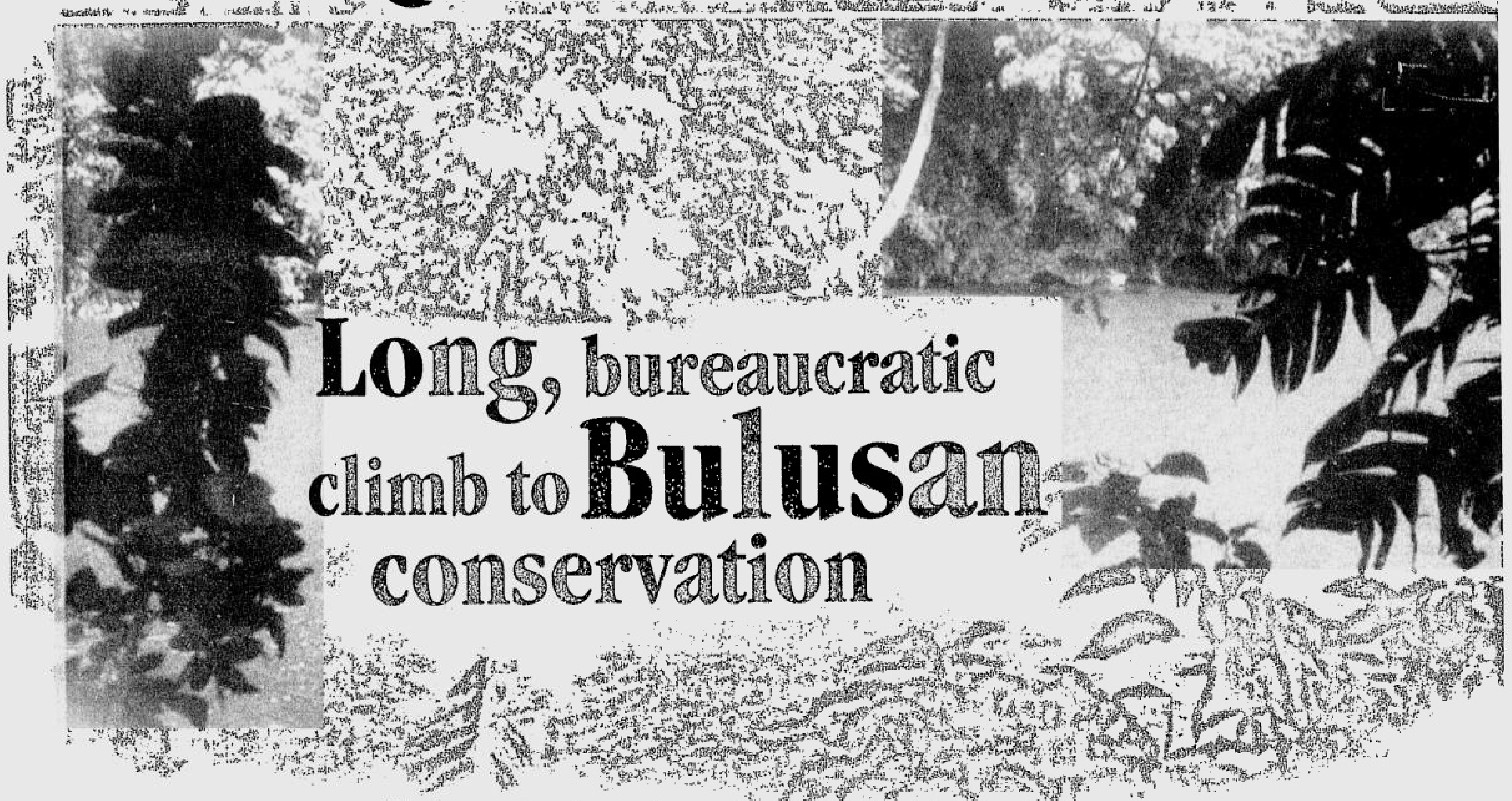

Long, bureaucratic climb to Bulusan conservation

BULUSAN Lake is caught in a drag, too. Last year, the local government of Bulusan sought to manage the lake, but despite the management plan approved by the Protected Area Management Board, the memorandum of agreement has yet to be signed. EMIR GAMIS

By Emir Gamis
Sorsogon City

FOR environmentalists, the conservation and protection of the Bulusan Volcano Natural Park (BVNP) must be a long and arduous bureaucratic climb.

The 3,673-hectare park in Sorsogon province is the subject of conservation and protection drives, on one side, and what authorities consider small-scale, persistent, illegal logging and various forms of encroachment, on the other.

Located 600 km south of Manila, the park comprises 20 barangays in the towns of Bulusan, Irosin, Barcelona, Casiguran and Juban.

The surroundings of the Bulusan Volcano were declared forest reserve on May 25, 1931 through Proclamation No. 385. They were reclassified as a national park on June 17, 1935 through Proclamation No. 881 issued by Governor-General Joseph Hayden during the American occupation and finally declared a natural park on Nov. 27, 2001 through Proclamation No. 421 issued by then President Joseph Estrada.

Rich environment

The BVNP's forest, grassland and aquatic ecosystems are home to diverse floral, faunal and aquatic resources.

In 1994, a rapid site appraisal survey, funded by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment and conducted by Lingap para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan Inc. (Likas), a non-government organization involved in the protection and conservation of BVNP, recorded 56 bird species, 11 mammal species, and 11 frog species in the Bulusan Lake area and 99 bird species, eight mammal and 11 herpetofaunal species in the Inlagadean area in Casiguran.

Among those recorded by Likas are rare, near-threatened and vulnerable species, like the Luzon Bleeding Heart (*Gallicolumba luzonica*), Luzon Tarictic Hornbill (*Penilopides panini panini*), Philippine Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus philippensis*), Southern Luzon Giant Cloud Rat (*Phloeomys cumingi*), and the Philippine Brown Deer (*Cervus mariannus*).

The famous Bulusan lake, an ecotourism destination in Bicol, where a significant population of dipterocarp or hardwood species is present in its periphery, is also part of the park.

Although there are no settlers in the park, some 40 families derive subsistence from it as tillers and transient forest occupants, prompting authorities to keep the balance between protection and conservation drives and the need to provide alternative livelihood programs for those who will be affected by it.

Partnership

Aydel Salvadora, project coordinator of the BVNP-Community Based Resource Management project of Likas, said there had been no massive logging within the territories but warned that small-scale logging, taken collectively, "will grow."

Salvadora said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government units involved should establish a partnership in law enforcement. "Based on our consultations, the barangays are willing to participate in protection and conservation but they always ask for the support of the local government units, whether financially or through legislations." she said.

She pointed out that the deputation of forest guards from people's organizations would strengthen law enforcement within the park.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) said the park had seven deputized forest guards, supported by the DENR, Army and police, the local government units and other law-enforcement agencies.

Too long

But for Emmanuel Garcia, project coordinator of the Pederasyon ng Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Bundok Bulusan, a federation of nine people's organizations involved in the BVNP, the DENR has been sitting too long on their application for deputation as partner.

"The bottomline of the problem is (that) the people's organizations have the initiative to protect but we are asking for deputation of the forest guards. It has been too long," said Garcia, who revealed that their application was submitted two years ago.

He said the deputation would strengthen law enforcement, apart from invoking the citizen's arrest, which is sometimes challenged by perpetrators.

However, Lemuel Soriano, Penro's protected area superintendent for the BVNP, explained that the DENR central office had issued a memorandum prohibiting deputation that was only lifted early this year.

Soriano also pointed out that the deputation had been "fertile ground for graft."

"There have been many instances that (we) deputized but they don't really perform their functions. (It's) like '*hulidap*' (self-serving arrest) and others make it their 'bigasan' (milking cow)," he said.

"Our problem is the reportorial system; sometimes they don't report. We need a monthly report if you're deputized. They (Pinagsama) should activate their application, but they should promise that they will submit reports," Soriano added.

Bill

The stakeholders believe that the approval of the protected area bill submitted to Congress last year will greatly help the protection and conservation of the BVNP.

"There will be appropriation when it is approved. Right now, we rely on each other, we fill up, depending on the availability of funds," Salvadora said.

Soriano also said they were hampered by financial constaints, and initiatives from other institutions have been helping them in projects concerning BVNP.

But both Salvadora and Garcia said the bill did not go through the right process because it lacked public consultations, as required under the National Protected Areas System Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Garcia also pointed out that the bill listed Sorsogon proper, rather than Bulusan, as part of the BVNP.

"Just right (there) it's already erroneous. They're not familiar with the area and it did not go to the right process. It's Bulusan Volcano, and Bulusan was omitted," Garcia pointed out.

But Soriano downplayed the exclusion as a minor error, owing to a mistake in drafting in the DENR Central Office and explained that Bulusan, where 40 percent of the BVNP is situated, was included in the technical description—which, he added, was more important.

Soriano said the request of a review of the bill will be coursed through the DENR regional office, which, in turn, will recommend it to the central office.

Although the bill is needed as soon as possible, it is up to Congress' discretion.

"If that will not be approved or will take too long, what we will be doing is to continue raising the awareness of the people," Garcia said.

Daily dose of miracles brings hope to kidney patient

By Mei Magsino
Batangas City

FOUR months after her story of suffering appeared in the INQUIRER, Molina Calaluan of Isla Verde in Batangas City is smiling again.

Financial and spiritual help from friends and strangers rained on the Calaluan family, giving the girl a chance to live and regain her lost dreams.

For Molina's family, the letters, along with donations, and the visits of kind strangers who gave cash and other items were everyday miracles that told them to fight the disease that nearly consumed her. For three years, Molina was suffering from nephritic syndrome, a disease that caused kidney malfunction.

Strangers from as far as Manila, Angeles City in Pampanga, Antipolo City, and in different towns and cities in the province, came to their small house in Barangay Malitam to see and talk to Molina. They offered money to help sustain her daily dialysis, and encouraged her to fight her ailment.

According to Molina's father Romulo, since the story was published on April 17, hundreds of people from all over the country have called him to donate money.

"I have lived this long and yet I have never witnessed a miracle until now," Romulo said, "and even Molina has joined in the miracle. Before, the doctors' diagnosis was that she needed to undergo 12 months of dialysis therapy on a daily basis before she could have the kidney transplant. But in less than four months, she is now ready for a kidney transplant."

Kindness

"I read with sadness your April 17, 2003 article regarding Molina Calaluan's suffering from nephritic syndrome. Before Molina could regain her lost dreams, she must first fight to survive and live on … "

So goes a letter from a businessman, who requested anonymity. His letter came with a clipping of the INQUIRER story, along with a check for P150,000 which was meant to pay for Molina's treatment to condition her body for 12 months.

"When Molina's body is conditioned for a kidney transplant after 12 months' time, please contact me to see if I can contribute P100,000 for her operation. I won't be able to shoulder the entire P500,000 cost of operation, but we'll have 12 months to raise this money on Molina's behalf."

The letter was first sent to the INQUIRER's Southern Luzon Bureau office and then to this writer who, in turn, gave the letter to Romulo.

Another letter from a contributor, who also requested anonymity, was sent to this writer with P2,000 in cash for Molina's treatment.

Romulo, who has revived his year-long inactive bank account that had been closed by the bank for lack of funds, said donations from kind strangers who called him on the phone have reached P259,580.

Cash given to them ranged from P2,000 to P10,000, and even reached more than P70,000.

"People would knock on our door and request to see Molina. And when they talked to her, we all couldn't help but cry. I never thought that there are still kind strangers who would help other people in need," Molina's mother Rosario said.

She said there was even a woman from San Juan, Batangas, who said her miraculous image of the Sto. Niño cried when she was reading Molina's story.

"The woman came all the way from San Juan just to lend us the miraculous image of the Sto. Niño," Rosario said. "The Sto. Niño has started to smile since it got here. And Molina has been recovering remarkably."

Romulo said their neighbors from Isla Verde, an island barangay, were surprised when they found that Molina was still alive. Romulo is chair of Barangay San Antonio in Isla Verde.

THE KINDNESS of strangers who were touched by Molina Calaluan's story contributed to her fast recovery. MEI MAGSINO

Miracles

"They knew that we had no more money to spend for her treatments. And they also knew that we had almost given up hope that she would survive. Before the INQUIRER story, we had met with our family elders and decided to let destiny take its course," he said.

"We thought her case and our already-vanished family savings were hopeless. We even thought that if it were her time to die, then we would just let it be. But then a miracle happened and she's now on the road to recovery," he added.

When this writer found Molina on April 6, she could hardly talk. Every word that came out from her lips brought tears, as the pain in her stomach was getting worse.

That time, her peritorial dialysis got into her body through a hole in her stomach. The hole had been swollen and infected from the daily treatment that was supposed to be given three times a day.

The treatment procedures were administered only twice a day, as the family could no longer afford the cost of the treatments.

Molina couldn't even stand or lie down, as she was always out of breath. All she could do then was sit on a monobloc chair with mosquito net on her swollen feet, and cry day and night.

The pain she had been suffering for three years had made her forget to hope and dream.

Fast recovery

The donations and prayers of well-wishers speeded up the treatment. The peritorial dialysis was changed into hemo dialysis, where the medicine enters her body through a hole on her right arm. The hole in her stomach, which was already infected, has been closed.

The treatment is now conducted only twice a week at the Dialysis Center in Sto. Tomas town. Since then, Molina's responses to the treatment have improved, and in less than four months, she was able to walk again. After three years of fighting the disease, her smile and laughter have again brought joy to her family.

"After the kidney transplant, my life will be back to normal again," Molina said, "I can go back to school again and pursue my dreams."

She said she might take up nursing after high school, as she has been so used to the hospitals where she was taken in the past, and has even mastered the use of the syringe. Since her disease was diagnosed three years ago, she has lost count of the number of injections she got.

Molina will turn 16 on Sept. 16.

"For now, she's very much ready for the kidney transplant, and we have already identified a kidney donor," Romulo said, "We're hoping that their blood and tissue samples could match. After that, the schedule for the transplant will be set."

For the Calaluan family, Molina's disease that nearly killed her, has taught them a lesson of hope and showed them that miracles still happen from the goodness of kind strangers.

'She berated me, she kept yakking and yakking'

From page A1

minded by a commission counsel to be "a gentleman" and refrain from speaking ill of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But before lawyer Mario Ongkiko could issue that warning, Trillanes had already spoken a mouthful about the kind of treatment he purportedly got from Ms Macapagal during a July 13 meeting in Malacañang.

He said he was about to show the President his two controversial masteral term papers on corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines "but she said she could not possibly believe" what he wrote.

"I think everybody knows how arrogant our President is," Trillanes said defiantly. "Everybody can visualize it."

"I attempted to tell her how bad things were at the AFP but she never let me," he added. "I was flipping over the pages of my research papers but she never gave me a chance. I assume she has never read it."

Ongkiko, the commission's chief counsel, rose to tell Trillanes to watch his language when describing the President. The lawyer, however, misquoted the navy officer as having said "yakity-yak."

Arrogant

Commission chair Florentino Feliciano also asked Trillanes to "be factual," and use more "nouns and verbs" than adjectives in his statements. He also told Trillanes to give facts first and "opinions later."

Trillanes retorted: "Yakking is a slang. You told me to be factual about it. I could not find the words to describe how arrogant the President is."

"This is another sign of how hypocrite society is," he added, prompting Ongkino to threaten to have the officer's testimony terminated outright " if this meeting will be used as ground for sounding political statements."

Trillanes said he sought an audience with Ms Macapagal on July 13—exactly two weeks before the Oakwood seige—"to clear things up" after her aide de camp told three days earlier that "I was tagged as a member of a group (planning to) topple the government."

Trillanes said he was "taken aback" by what the aide de camp told him, and claimed that he "received death threats at home" following that exchange.

He said his meeting with Ms Macapagal was also witnessed by Captain Christopher Magdangal and Col. Delfin Bangit of the Presidential Security Group.

Lying through his teeth

A few hours after Trillanes testified before the commission, Palace officials called a nationally televised press conference to refute his allegations that the President did not bother to act on complaints of corruption in the military.

"He's lying through his teeth," Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said of Trillanes.

Bangit, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Magdangal who is the President's military aide and classmate of Trillanes and Navy flag officer in command Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon took turns denouncing Trillanes for his "lies."

"I cannot imagine how as an officer and a gentleman he can tell lies like that," Bangit said.

De Leon denied Trillanes was detained and he produced a waiver, signed on July 23 by Trillanes who turned down the security offer of his mother unit after he reported some death threats against him.

"That is a complete lie. He was never under our detention. If he can lie on a simple matter of detention, I don't see why he cannot lie on bigger things," De Leon said.

He said he was aghast at how Trillanes could freely lie before a fact-finding commission "where what is supposed to be spoken is only the truth."

Magdangal was also forceful in denying Trillanes' account of his meeting with the President at around 7 a.m. of July 13.

Trillanes had called up Magdangal on the evening of July 12 saying someone was out to get him. Trillanes then went to see Magdangal in Malacañang at around 3 a.m. on July 13. Magdangal brought Trillanes first to Bangit, his group commander, before he was presented to the President at 7 a.m.

No scolding

Magdangal, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class '95, denied that the President berated or scolded Trillanes.

He said the President calmly told Trillanes: "You are very young, very idealistic, very intelligent. Don't be like Gringo (Honasan) and (Col. Rafael) Cardeño."

"Yon ba ang binastos?," Magdangal said.

Magdangal said Trillanes initially did not want to talk with Bangit and wanted to be led directly to the President. Since it was the wee hours, they waited until it was 7 a.m. of Sunday to ask the President if she could meet with Trillanes in the Palace.

"There was no such incident (berating) that's why I felt obliged to come out to tell the public because truth is with us. It was a cordial meeting, there were questions asked and answers given," Bangit said.

Bangit said the President was "very interested" in Trillanes' revelations.

"Knowing the President well, she will not disregard things like that," Bangit said.

Bangit said Trillanes wanted to disclose details of a "plot" only to the President.

Tiglao said it was "a complete lie" that the President merely brushed off Trillanes' complaints.

"The President spent two hours (with him). She listened to all his complaints and set up a grievance mechanism (in the military)," Tiglao said.

Trillanes papers

De Leon said that even before the President met with Trillanes, Ms Macapagal was already aware of Trillanes' papers on corruption in the military. Trillanes gave the papers to the President during their meeting.

"In two week's time, they want everything solved? *Ano'ng klase ba yan?*," De Leon said.

Bangit said the President did not order Trillanes' detention but even asked that he be given security.

He said the PSG initially suggested that he be placed with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines but Trillanes refused. So they referred him to his mother unit, the Navy.

De Leon showed a July 23 waiver signed by Trillanes which stated that that the Naval Intelligence Security Force of the Navy had "offered security and protection for the undersigned . . . in relation to the death threats I have been receiving."

"However, I, Lt. Trillanes PN, has decided to respectfully waive/decline such security and protection offer. In doing so, I accept the full responsibility for my personal safety and that should any untoward incident happen to me, the Philippine Navy would be free from any liability legal or otherwise," he said.

De Leon said Trillanes turned down security "because he could not even trust us." He said it was then that Trillanes was asked to sign a waiver.

"It proves that he was not detained by us," De Leon said.

Mutineer escapes . . .

From page A1

Two armored vehicles as well as hundreds of rounds of ammunition and explosive devices enough to arm 300 men were reportedly discovered by officials Friday inside Camp San Felipe, 900 meters away from Sangley Point.

Navy Commodore Amado Sanglay said in a phone interview that the mutineers were to use Sangley Point as the strategic point for their air assault to topple the government.

Sanglay said the armored vehicles were in combat position when discovered near the camp gates.

He said officials were conducting a loyalty check among the military rank and file because of intelligence reports of massive recruitment inside the camps.

It is believed that other members of the rebel Magdalo group were planning to stage another coup attempt, he said.

Sanglay said, however, that the military was still loyal to President Macapagal-Arroyo as Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces. ***Reports from TJ Burgonio in Manila; Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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Mutiny a 'spontaneous' event, says Trillanes

From page A1

ble for the operation, then they should go."

The "Operation Green Base" he was referring to was the alleged plan by authorities to mount bombings in Davao City and blame these on the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He said that the plot was covered by a memo of instruction from the President and that the Magdalo group obtained information about the plot from intelligence reports.

"We confirmed and authenticated this through actual events," Trillanes said, referring to the bombings in Davao City in March and April this year that left dozens of people dead.

Asked by Mario Ongkiko, chief counsel for the commission, if the Magdalo group of mutineers had planned to install Estrada as leader and establish a junta if Ms Macapagal "goes down," Trillanes answered: "No."

He gave the same answer when pressed if Magdalo had planned to install him or Honasan as leader of the 15-member military junta as earlier reported in the papers.

"We're not constitutionalists or lawyers, who can determine who will seat here...," Trillanes said.

Guingona

Asked if they considered installing Vice President Teofisto Guingona instead, Trillanes said: "Maybe, because we didn't demand his resignation."

Defense, security and military officials had maintained that the mutiny was part of "a grand conspiracy to overthrow the Macapagal administration" and install a military junta to be headed by Honasan. The senator dismissed the charges.

Citing "Oplan Andres Campaign," which allegedly documents the plot, officials said the mutiny entailed the takeover of Malacañang, Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, and control of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and of TV station GMA-7 and radio station dzRH, and the disabling of power and communication lines.

One of the rebel soldiers captured also disclosed that the plot included the assassination of Ms Macapagal, Reyes and Corpus, intelligence officials had said.

For the length of the daylong hearing held at Camp Aguinaldo, Trillanes mainly did a reprise of the Magdalo group's "grievances" against the military leadership.

Other grievances

Other issues that Trillanes raised at the hearing were:

- Palace coup, which will be triggered by a series of bombings in Metro Manila and Baguio. The bombings, he said, would justify the granting of emergency powers to the President by Congress and lead to violations of the Constitution, including the declaration of martial law.

Trillanes said he attempted to discuss this with the President during their meeting on July 13 in Malacañang, but was only berated and ordered detained. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

- Sale of military arms and ammunition to the rebel groups. He admitted he had no personal knowledge of this, but said this "didn't mean that this is not existing." He spoke of "my companions," who can personally attest to the illegal transactions, Capt. Gary Alejano and Capt. Nicanor Faeldon.
- Sale of saved-up fuel to a crew of smugglers and fishermen at a discounted price in Mindanao. A Navy officer reported this to the Inspector General, but was rebuffed and was even called a liar, according to Trillanes.
- The Commission on Audit took bribes in the under-declaration of the cost of military supplies.
- Mauling of a mistah at the Navy, which was never investigated because those involved were members of the Freemason movement.

Asked by Feliciano whether he or his colleagues first tried to raise their gripes through the AFP's grievance mechanism, Trillanes said the military's "Inspector General system is beholden to the President."

Trillanes also recounted the incidents leading to the Oakwood mutiny.

Check in

He said that he checked in at the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments and joined his mistah, Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala, on the night of July 24, three days before the mutiny, because of fears for his safety.

"I felt that they were conditioning the mind of the public that someone was out to do me in," Trillanes said, citing at least five articles in the INQUIRER, which published reports on the threats on his life.

In his testimony, he said he was detained at the Naval Intelligence and Security Force in Fort Bonifacio from July 13, after he met with the President in Malacañang, until July 18. Shortly after, he was released but ordered to report every day.

Replying to a question, Trillanes said that the other groups of officers and enlisted men could have checked in at the hotel between "1 and 5-6 a.m." of July 27 "after the first major one arrived at around 1 a.m."

"The groups came in trickles," he said, noting he was not aware what time the others came in because he was always "holed up" upstairs. "When I went down, everybody was there."

"The guests were still sleeping, but we informed the security officer of the hotel that we would evacuate them (guests) at the most appropriate time."

Trillanes denied being the leader of the group. "There's no specific leader," he said.

He also said that the communication equipment and gadgets, including hand-held radios and tuners, and estimated to be worth millions of pesos, were "government-issue," and not provided by anybody as earlier reported.

The US military provided the equipment while training the Light Reaction Co. (LRC) in antiterror in Nueva Ecija in 2001, Trillanes said. The commander of the company, 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan, joined the mutiny.

Defense and military officials had earlier said that the gadgets, worth millions of pesos, were not issued by the government.

Trillanes declined to say if those planted around the hotel were bombs as reported, saying that "some acoustic material," which he admitted "make a lot of noise but no damage."

He declined to say who was the first official civilian whom the rebel soldiers allowed inside Oakwood on the afternoon of July 27, but later said the group of "Senator Biazon, Defensor, Sotto and Honasan."

Experts' opinion differ ...

From page A1

Another graphic artist reached by INQ7.net said Honasan's image might have been superimposed on an existing image since the edges of Honasan's figure appeared too sharp—a sign that the image had been superimposed.

But Adobe certified expert Jun Miranda, President of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, said the noise in the shadow areas of the photos was "consistent throughout" as was the amount of "camera shake" in both photos.

Miranda, who also runs a digital service bureau, said that the consistency of "noise" and camera shake in the two photos was consistent with the use of a very low resolution digital camera that had no flash. Asked if it were possible that the images were taken using the built-in camera of a mobile phone, Miranda said that was possible.

Not doctored?

At the Palace briefing yesterday, officials said the photos had not been doctored and were given to the Presidential Security Group head, Col. Delfin Bangit, by an informant.

An image-processing expert at a digital service bureau in Manila, also said, "There's a large possibility that it wasn't doctored."

The photo is "obviously low resolution, but it's going to be very, very difficult to degrade a separate photo (such as of Honasan standing by himself) down to the level of the first and then combine these together," he noted, observing that the "pixelization and posterizing within the elements appear consistent."

However, the expert did not say that there was "something odd" about the lighting in one of the photos.

"Light is reflecting harshly off the person with the white shirt on Honasan's left but it's not as evident on himself," the expert said. He, however, noted that such a situation could be caused by "a spotlight directed at the fellow with white shirt, which is possible as they may have been lighting the flags on the wall."

Stolen shots

Cabrido, who also analyzed the photos, said that they were clearly stolen shots taken from a low angle low-lit light source.

From its angle and blurry quality images, it was possible the photo was taken from a low resolution mobile phone camera.

Photo analysis shows a poor quality low resolution photo with poor backlighted subjects that was obviously hard to manipulate or enhance.

Questionable

The only questionable part of the picture is the harsh shadow on the left side of Honasan, since the ambient light is not that consistent to the other people in the picture. But when this photo was blown up to a larger format image, pixelization appeared to be normal.

Although shadows are not consistent, pixels show that there were no manipulations made in this picture.

The Palace released the photos to support its earlier claim that Honasan was present at a "blood compact" ceremony where the mutineers cut their upper arms and allowed blood to drip on the self-styled Magdalo flag.

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Honasan breaks silence

BECAUSE of the pictures, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who is in hiding, broke his silence.

In a phone patch interview with Senate reporters, Honasan reiterated his denial that he attended any secret meeting with the junior officers on June 4 and presided over a blood compact that allegedly sealed the plot to overthrow the Macapagal administration. (The blood compact, according to Malacañang, was on June 13).

"I categorically deny any involvement in any such act or activity for the record," Honasan said, noting he heard Trillanes tell the Feliciano Commission that the man standing in the picture looked like Honasan.

But the senator said that this was part of the fabrications being made by the government against him.

He said he would even show his upper left arm to prove his innocence "but under proper circumstances." He said he would show "whatever part of my body" but expressed doubt officials would find anything but gunshot wounds he had acquired during his military service.

"I will do it in the proper time, at the proper forum, but I will not do it for the sake of media exposure," Honasan said, in reaction to the challenge made to him by certain government officials to show his upper left arm to prove his innocence. "I will not give (officials) the benefit of a circus."

Participants in the blood compact were said to have made cuts in their upper left arms. They then smeared their blood on the flag of the Magdalo Group.

Palace proof: Honasan-Trillanes photos

From page A1

ture released by Malacañang was a fake.

The photos were the second set of evidence the government presented as proof that Honasan took part in the blood compact with a group of junior officers to seal their plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The first was the affidavit of government star witness Maj. Perfecto Ragil, who allegedly was a participant in the blood compact in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Admitting that questions would be raised on the authenticity of the photos, Bangit said he was leaving it to investigators. The photos, he said, were given to him last week by a "morally bothered" military man-cum-informant.

But the PSG chief said he believed in the authenticity of the photos.

"If you look at it, it's supposed to be the Magdalo flag there and the Philippine flag ... where they did the rubbing of their blood. And this happened on June 13," Bangit said. "This is just to show that Lieutenant Trillanes and Senator Honasan met at one point in time."

The photos show the back of a man (supposedly Honasan) talking to Trillanes near a wall where the Magdalo flag and the blood-spotted Philippine flag were hung. There were several people in the background, including one holding what appeared to be a sheaf of documents.

No sir

Asked by Mario Ongkiko, chief counsel for the Feliciano Commission, if he joined "any bloodletting," Trillanes said: "No sir."

Trillanes was shown two pictures of men in a huddle with white and red flags in the background and was asked to identify the man on the right (who had his back to the camera).

"The figure on the right looks like Senator Honasan," he said when shown one picture. "It looks like Senator Honasan, but I have some reservations," he added when shown another picture.

Asked if the photo was taken during a "bloodletting," Trillanes said: "No Sir." He said the photo could have been taken on a "single occasion," but did not specify the date and place.

Dinuguan

Trillanes said the last time he saw Honasan before the July 27 mutiny was during the launch of the National Recovery Program at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila, in February.

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the photos proved that Honasan and Trillanes were participants in what he referred in jest as "dinuguan," the rite allegedly performed by Honasan and the Magdalo group by making a small cut in their inner arm and rubbing blood on the flag.

"We're just forced to come out with this because of the interviews of Senator Honasan, the lies Trillanes has been spreading, (that) he doesn't even know this 'dinuguan'. *Nandito s'ya eh,*" Tiglao said.

Bangit was hesitating when Tiglao prompted him to answer a TV reporter asking Bangit to confirm reports that Honasan and Trillanes met before July 27.

"Can you answer that, Colonel Bangit, whether Trillanes and Honasan met. Maybe you should disclose whatever information you have now," Tiglao said.

"Yes, I have," Bangit said. "I would like to make this revelation for the public to know what is really the truth because they have so many versions of the stories."

Bangit drew a storm of questions about the authenticity of the photo and circumstances surrounding it but he said he could not give other details.

"The information given to us is that this picture was taken on June 13 supposed to be in a secret place where these people attended. Very clearly in this photo, it's Lieutenant Trillanes and Senator Honasan," Bangit said.

"If you will ask (me) on the validity of this picture, we will reserve that to the investigating body to further study that."

Asked where the photo was taken, Bangit said: "I'm not at liberty to discuss the details ... (but) come the proper presentation of this at the court the details will be discussed there."

He also could not say if the photo was taken on the same day Honasan allegedly led the "blood compact" with members of the the Magdalo Group who staged the failed July 27 mutiny in Makati.

Asked if the photo could have been taken in the house of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, ousted President Joseph Estrada's Presidential Management Staff chief, Bangit said: "It's really up to the investigating body to discover this. I have given a copy to J2 (military intelligence) for their further investigation."

Informant's handler

Another photo of the Magdalo Group was allegedly taken in the house of Cardenas in Dasmariñas, Makati.

Bangit refused to name the informant but he said he was a soldier apparently brought to him by a military "handler." He said it was not Ragil, the government's star witness against Honasan and the mutineers.

Asked if the informant was a member of Magdalo, the PSG chief said: "I don't want to answer that."

"Whoever that informant is he got so morally bothered that he volunteered that photo," Tiglao remarked.

Bangit said that the informant was not in military custody but that he could be called to testify by the investigating body.

Also present at the press briefing were presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon and Capt. Christopher Magdangal, the President's military aide.

Magdangal, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '95 to which Trillanes and other leaders of the mutiny belong, mentioned some personalities with whom Trillanes had come in contact with.

Magdangal met Trillanes in Malacañang on July 13 after Trillanes complained of a death threat. That morning, he and Bangit, his group commander, brought Trillanes to the President.

Magdangal later played a big role in ending the mutiny, as he and his other classmates went to Oakwood Premier to personally persuade their rebellious classmates to end the siege.

Cravings

Magdangal said Trillanes told him and Bangit on July 13 about how he got together with Honasan because their class solicited funds from the senator some years back. He recalled that Honasan's secretary contacted Trillanes two weeks later to invite him to a meeting with Honasan at Cravings in Quezon City.

Quoting Trillanes, Magdangal said Trillanes met University of the Philippines president Dodong Nemenzo, UP professor Randy David and Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco to discuss the National Recovery Program. The NRP, Honasan's platform of government, was used as "bible" by the mutineers during the Oakwood siege.

Magdangal said Trillanes also disclosed that he was present in a workshop on the Purchased-Power Adjustment of opposition senators in the house of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta sometime in 2001.

Magdangal said Trillanes already belonged to the Magdalo Group at that time but that there were no other Magdalo members present in the workshop.

'I was ordered to bomb mosque'

From page A1

Mindanao frontlines for eight years, said a higher ranking officer had told him to form a special operations team to carry out the alleged hit on a mosque in Davao City.

The "operation," he claimed, was meant to avenge the number of bombing incidents in Davao.

The recipient of the Presidential Saber on his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1995, Maestrecampo said he was then a company commander of the 16th Scout Ranger Company based in Mindanao.

"I told him (the officer) that they (Muslims in the mosque) were not the enemy," Maestrecampo told the commission counsel, Mario Ongkiko.

"I couldn't submit to the illegal order."

Maestrecampo refused to identify the officer who gave him the order.

"He is a good man who was just relaying an unlawful order," he explained.

When asked by Ongkiko to elaborate on his revelation, Maestrecampo, who received eight Gold Cross medals for his Mindanao service, said he would just discuss the details in the proper forum.

The junior officer's lawyers argued that the order from the highe-ranked officer was contained in an affidavit Maestrecampo had prepared.

Maestrecampo also claimed that Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was spotted in Davao during the Sasa Wharf bombing earlier this year.

Though he said it was another officer who saw Corpus, Maestrecampo said he arrived at two possibilities: either Corpus personally facilitated the hit or he was just "too incompetent for that bombing to happen right under his nose."

Either way, he argued that Corpus should have been sacked as military intelligence chief. Corpus resigned after the July 27 mutiny.

Before Corpus' alleged sighting in Davao, Maestrecampo said he had "idolized" the man. While a PMA instructor in the '70s, Corpus defected to the New People's Army.

"So it almost broke my heart when I was told that he was in Davao," he told the commission.

Maestrecampo was asked to detail the mutineers' complaints against the military leadership.

He cited Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' alleged "micromanagement" style.

He said Reyes did so to obtain "*pogi* points"—or to endear himself—to the Macapagal administration. Which elicited laughter in the hearing room, the Patio Restaurant of the AFP Officers Club in Camp Aguinaldo.

Micromanaging, according to Maestrecampo, created confusion in the ranks and resulted in a selective allocation of resources for favored battalion commanders.

Another complaint raised by Maestrecampo was the Retirement Separation and Benefit System that kept soldiers waiting for meagre loans, their separation pay and other benefits.

Maestrecampo also talked about the deplorable condition of soldiers in the frontline in contrast to top officers at headquarters riding high on staff vehicles.

Maestrecampo recounted how one of his men died after a clash because a helicopter did not arrive on time to airlift him.

"I had a man shouting my name. He was about to die. There was no air evacuation because the so-called Huey helicopter's were being used by generals. Now you ask me if there was nothing wrong? Definitely, there's something wrong," he said.

To address the wide disparity in the privileges enjoyed by officials, on the one hand, and troops on the ground, on the other hand, Maestrecampo proposed the setting up of "a battle front oriented system."

"If you guys at the GHQ have the luxury privileges, that's okay... if that's lawful. But we should make sure that people in the field have their combat boots, have adequate communication equipment, etc.," he said.

The litany of complaints prompted Florentino Feliciano, chair of the commission, to give Maestrecampo a lecture on the redress of grievances under a democracy.

"Do you feel that you alone are concerned about the level of poverty of our country? Do you feel you are the only one who resents the loss of resources by reason of corruption in government and in private life?"

"I suggest to you, sir, you have no monopoly of these things," Feliciano told him. "But the great majority of the people do not take up arms, do not rise against the government."

Asked why he went to Oakwood, Maestrecampo said,"Maybe this was the last chance for me to do something good and moral for the armed forces and the community."

He narrated that he went to Oakwood at 1 a.m. on July 27 after getting a call from his mistah, Capt. Gerardo Gambala, to tell him about the President Macapagal's order for the arrest of the alleged plotters.

Trillanes co-owner of research, polling firm

From page A1

The certificate and articles of incorporation of the FYI Research and Consulting Group, which was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 12, 2002, listed the incorporators as Antonio Trillanes IV, Eugene Louie Gonzales, Rolando Averilla, Earl Derrick Tolentino and Carlos Udarbe.

Trillanes and Gonzales, both Navy lieutenants senior grade and 1995 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, were among the leaders of the mutiny mounted at the Oakwood Premier building in Makati.

Averilla, a member of PMA Class 1996, left the service to put up his own business, and Tolentino and Udarbe are civilians, intelligence officials said.

The sources said Trillanes and Gonzales became close as cadets in the PMA when the latter was charged with sexual harassment. Trillanes, who chaired the committee that looked into the case, was said to have helped absolve Gonzales of the charge.

In his testimony yesterday before the Feliciano Commission at Camp Aguinaldo, Trillanes was asked by former Navy Commodore Rex Robles if he was an official of a consultancy firm.

Trillanes admitted that he had a consultancy firm but did not name it. He also denied holding any position in it.

However, in the SEC documents obtained by the INQUIRER, Trillanes was listed as treasurer.

The FYI's latest survey, commissioned by former Education Secretary Raul Roco, was issued in the first quarter of the year. It showed Roco as leading the presidential candidates, followed by Sen. Noli de Castro and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

In its survey results for vice president, Sen. Loren Legarda emerged first and Honasan second.

"They will not look credible if they put Honasan [among] the presidential candidates. So they wanted to package Honasan as a winnable candidate for vice president," a top military official told the INQUIRER.

Reached by phone, a staff member of the FYI said no one among its officials was available for comment.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission also wants to find out whether Trillanes, whose basic pay as Navy lieutenant senior grade is P17,334, is the owner of eight vehicles, including five Mitsubishi Delicas, a Mitsubishi Pajero, a Nissan Terrano, and a Kawasaki motorcycle.

"It's shocking. How could he own all those vehicles?" PAGC Commissioner Teresita Baltazar told the INQUIRER.

Baltazar said she would ask the Office of the Ombudsman to immediately conduct a lifestyle check on Trillanes.

"He has a lot of explaining to do," Baltazar said. "It would be very ironic for an officer to complain about corruption in government when he himself is not clean."

Baltazar also said that given the choice, she would prefer that the PAGC itself investigate Trillanes' supposed questionable wealth.

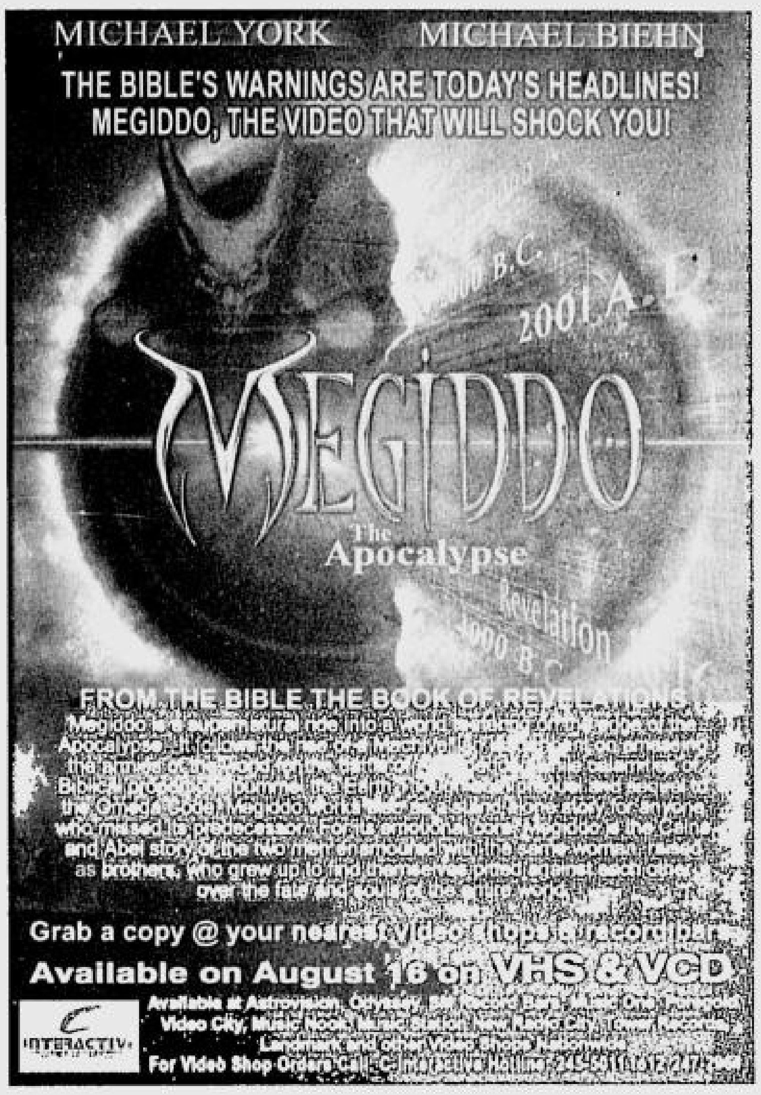
But the law requires that the Ombudsman conduct lifestyle checks on police and military officers, and the PAGC on presidential appointees, she explained.

Trillanes was asked about the ownership of the vehicles at yesterday's hearing of the Feliciano Commission.

He denied owning a Pajero and a motorcycle but said he had a second-hand Terrano, supposedly bought using a P2.3-million bank loan taken out by his mother.

He also said his family initially acquired at least three Delicas for its car rental business but currently had two.

The FYI, with initial capital stock of P1 million and paid-up capital of P250,000, holds office at 9 San Francisco St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig, according to SEC documents. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa*



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Bad start for QC traffic plan

By Tina Santos and Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE ONE-WAY, reverse traffic scheme implemented in New Manila, Quezon City, is apparently causing reversed results.

Instead of easing congestion, the scheme started last Monday has led to massive traffic jams in the area, especially along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue.

Some motorists complained of being stalled for hours.

And not even the presence of numerous traffic enforcers helped in easing the congestion.

The city government began carrying out the traffic plan along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in a bid to solve the traffic buildup brought about by the bottleneck in front of the St. Luke's Medical Center.

The city government said it had advised motorists who usually go through the area before implementing the scheme. However, motorists said they were caught by surprise by the traffic re-routing.

Lawyer Imelda Salazar missed an important business meeting after she was stranded right in front of the private hospital.

"What they did was very confusing," Salazar said, adding that she was trapped in the traffic jam for almost four hours.

Ismael Milan, supervisor of the traffic enforcers at the city's Department of Public Order and Safety, said motorists should bear with the new system saying it was only "experimental."

"In time they will get used to it, *nalilito lang sila ngayon kasi bago pa*," Milan said. "*Pag hindi nag*-work (new traffic scheme), baka *ibalik din sa dati*."

The Inquirer asked Central Police District traffic officials about the traffic scheme but they were not aware of how it was being implemented.

Officers interviewed said the re-routing plan was a project of the Quezon City government under the DPOS.

No more crossing on Quezon Ave.

By Margaux Ortiz

BEGINNING tomorrow, motorists and public utility vehicle drivers are expected to make way for the "clearway scheme" of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Quezon Avenue.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday stressed that a strict "no crossing, no left turn" policy would be enforced on Quezon Avenue.

He said the scheme will allow for the continuous flow of traffic on the avenue.

Vergel de Dios said that on the stretch of Quezon Avenue, from Elliptical road to Welcome Rotunda, motorists would be banned from turning left.

They would instead be made to use a U-turn slot to go to the next lane, and then turn right toward their original destination, the traffic director said.

He added that vehicles coming from the perpendicular lane would also be banned from crossing intersections.

Vergel de Dios said that the vehicles would instead be made to merge with the immediate lane, take the U-turn slot and then continue on their preferred roadway.

Vergel de Dios also said that the no left turn and no crossing policy has worked well for Edsa and other intersections where it was first implemented.

Radio stolen in PNP camp

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A JEEPNEY driver did not have a hard time reporting to the police that his jeep's stereo had been stolen.

The reason: the robbery happened right inside the Central Police District headquarters at Camp Karingal in Quezon City.

What Romulo Cinampan and his barker Ruel Ponteres had to do was walk a few meters to to the Criminal Investigation Unit to report the theft.

Cinampan and Ponteres parked their passenger jeepney near a sari-sari store inside Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village last Tuesday afternoon. The two had to report a traffic accident to the Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG).

But when they went back at about 7:30 p.m., the two were shocked to find the jeep's stereo worth P6,000 was already gone.

Policemen whom the INQUIRER spoke to yesterday said the complainant could have lost the stereo somewhere else.

But a traffic investigator at the TEG office said they had a lot of cases where vehicles parked inside the headquarters' grounds were robbed of either stereos or car parts.

'Don't nag patients about cash'

DOH asks hospitals: Please be nice

By Blanche S. Rivera

CITING the case of the unfortunate Calisaan quadruplets, a fact-finding team created by the Department of Health (DOH) has asked hospitals to "look into the attitude and actuations" of their staff when dealing with patients.

The team, which cleared seven hospitals of violating the No Deposit Law in the Calisaan case, said that while no deposit or immediate payment was required from the Calisaans, the persistent reminding of outstanding bills made it appear otherwise.

"They (health workers) should be reminded that they should not be apathetic, inconsiderate or insensitive to patients and the relatives," the team headed by Judge Samilo Barlongay said in its 41-page report.

"They (members of patient's family) should be treated with courtesy, tact, diplomacy and understanding to avoid miscommunication and ill will, and to promote rapport between them," Barlongay further said.

He added that the hospital staff should keep in mind the mental and psychological state of families dealing with a life and death situation involving a loved-one.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the DOH was already working on the department orders that it would issue to rectify the handling of some hospital staff in the Calisaan case.

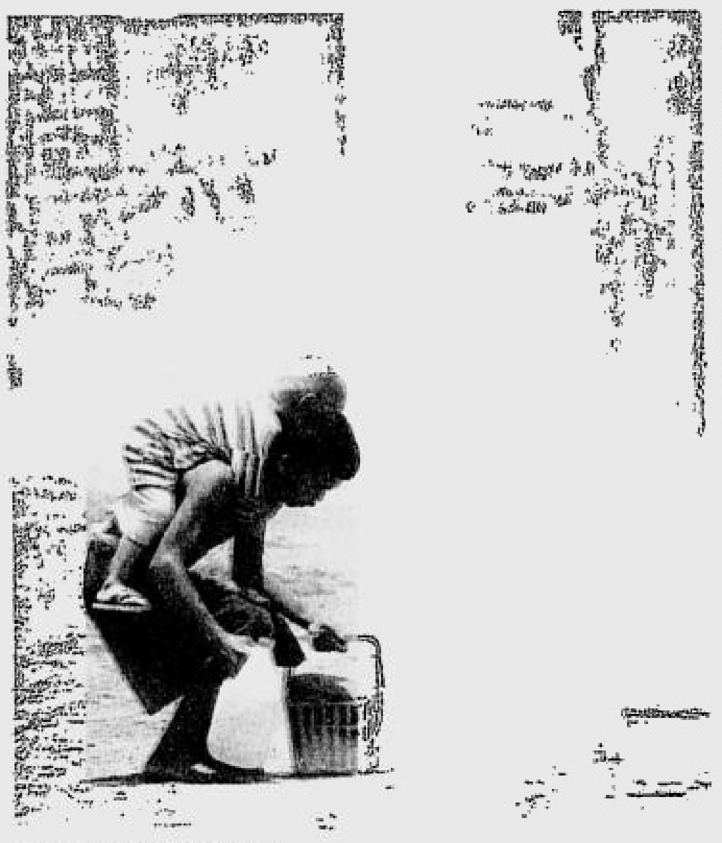
He added that some recommendations by the fact-finding team were already existing but needed strict implementation.

The DOH, for example, has ordered as early as February 1998 that all hospitals post a copy of the "No Deposit Law" in their emergency rooms and two other populated areas of the hospitals.

In its administrative order no. 5-B series of 1998, the DOH said that posting of the No Depsoit Law would be a prerequisite to the renewal of licenses by the hospitals.

The investigating team also said that the DOH should ensure that the processing of papers or payment of bills should "never be a cause for delay and should never be a cause for a patient to be transferred to another hospital."

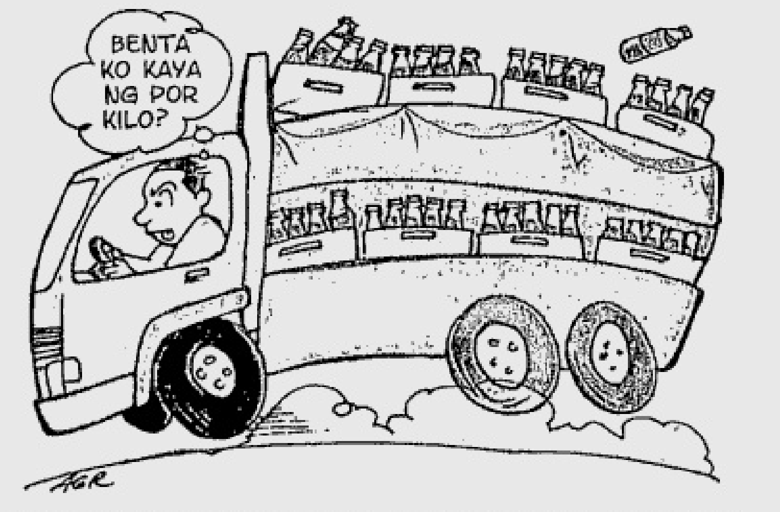
The team formed to look into the complaint of the quadruplets' parents also said that government hospitals must not reject or refuse admission to any patients referred by private hospitals.



STARTING YOUNG
While children are supposed to be in school, many young people like those above help out with their families earn a living at a dumpsite in Tondo, Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

Trainee drives off with Pepsi truck

By Luige del Puerto


BENTA KO KAYA NG POR KILO?
AGR

WHAT was he thinking of?

Members of the Marikina Police could not help but wonder why a driver-trainee would want to steal a Pepsi truck and lose a stable job.

The police have ordered a manhunt for Dennis Gerilla of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, after he allegedly stole the six-wheeled Isuzu truck of one of the largest cola producers in the world.

Initial investigation showed that Gerilla has only been with Pepsi for three days.

"We took him in because his papers were in order and he looked decent," said Ed Chua, the driver-trainer.

Chua said the incident happened as they were unloading 10 cases of softdrinks on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Barangay Concepcion Uno yesterday morning.

Chua said he went to his office, which was only walking distance from where they were unloading goods.

"When I came back, our truck was gone," he said.

The truck's helper, Elmer Deloveres, 22, was as clueless as Chua. Deloveres said he was carrying cases inside a store and did not even notice the truck leaving.

Chief Inspector Antonio Cruz, head of criminal investigation, theorized Gerilla could already have contacted a buyer.

Still, the theft had puzzled him. "What is he going to do with a Pepsi truck and 176 cases of softdrinks?" Cruz said. "He can't sell nor hide the truck and he won't have time to sell the softdrinks."

Car of late Sen. Rene Cayetano stolen

By Tina Santos

THE LATE senator Rene Cayetano could be turning in his grave after his car was stolen on Tuesday night in Quezon City.

Probers said the maroon Chrysler was special to the senator as shown by its license plates (CYC 777) which bore the acronym of a public service program "Companero y Companera," which he had hosted before becoming senator.

According to the police, Cayetano's car was parked in front of Headway Barbershop on the corner of Scout Fernandez and Tomas Morato Street when it was taken by still unidentified men at 9:15 p.m. the other day.

P01 Aries San Jose of the Central Police District Anti-carnapping Unit said that July Manimtim, the family driver, parked the vehicle in front of the barbershop at around 9 p.m. to drop off the late senator's son Lino.

Lino was on his way to a meeting at a nearby establishment.

After parking the car, Manimtim told police that three men, all of medium built, clad in striped T-shirts and sitting in front of the barbershop, approached him and asked him about its model, to which he replied.

The driver then left and stayed in front of the establishment where the younger Cayetano was.

Ten minutes later, Manimtim said he was about to go back to the car when he saw it speed off toward E. Rodriguez Avenue.

"*Di siya kaagad nakasigaw kasi para siyang natulala*," San Jose told the INQUIRER.

The CPD has sent out an all-points bulletin for the immediate recovery of the vehicle.

Last week, the blue Toyota Prado (XFB 898) of broadcast journalist Cito Beltran was also stolen in front of the ABS-CBN compound on Sgt. Esguerra Street, Quezon City.

Quezon City has the highest car theft rate in the country.

Military supplies to rebels justified?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CHARGE that some top military officers turned over guns and ammunition to a former rebel leader in Sulu six years ago can probably be explained.

Two Marine captains, Danilo Luna and Ury Pesigan, have accused top officers at the Southern Command (Southcom) of selling guns and ammunition to Haji Bagis, former mayor of Panamao town and an ex-leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Luna, in particular, said he was present when 81-mm mortar cartridges, 57-mm rocket launchers and several thousand rounds of .50 caliber and other types of guns were turned over to Bagis on Dec. 27, 1997.

* * *

"Those weapons and ammunition were not sold to Mayor Bagis, Mon, they were given to him by the military," said a retired Marine general who asked not to be named.

At that time, the retired general was assigned in Mindanao. He said Southcom, not the Marines, was involved in providing the guns and ammo.

"There were barely enough weapons and ammo supply for the Marines at that time, how could they have given them to ex-rebels? The ammo and weapons came from the Southcom," the retired general said.

* * *

But the retired general justified the changing of hands of guns and ammo from the military to Bagis, saying the ex-rebel was helping government troops fight the MILF. Bagis and his band, the general said, were helping the government fight the MILF.

In return, the government supplied Bagis with guns and ammo.

* * *

There's a saying, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." That's the dictum of any military organization. During World War II, the US provided weapons, ammunition and supplies to Filipino guerrillas fighting the Japanese forces. Even the communist Huks received American war materials.

During the operation against the notorious bandit Kamlon in the 1950s in Sulu, the military supplied guns and ammunition to Tausug bandits who were friendly to the military.

The Moro bandits who helped the military hunt down Kamlon were called "friendly outlaws" by the military, according to my late father. My Old Man served in Sulu as a first lieutenant in the Philippine Constabulary.

* * *

Following my father's line, Bagis and his band were "friendly forces."

It's an open secret that the undermanned military in Mindanao supplies armed groups fighting Moro rebels or communist New People's Army guerrillas.

Groups such as the Ilaga and the "Beatles" were recipients of weapons and ammunition from the military in the 1970s. The Ilaga was a composed of Ilonggo farmers who fought the Moro rebels, while the Beatles were a paramilitary group that went after the "Monkees," a liquidation group of the communist guerrillas in Luzon.

* * *

Of recent vintage is the Kuratong Baleleng gang. Originally, the Kuratong Baleleng was a civilian anti-communist group which went after the NPAs in Misamis Occidental.

Kuratong Baleleng was provided weapons and ammunition by the military.

However, the anti-communist vigilantes became a criminal gang, shifting its operation in Metro Manila. The gang held up banks.

* * *

After Senior Supt. Panfilo Lacson and his men allegedly liquidated some members of the Kuratong gang in the early 1990s, the gang sent a liquidation squad to get Lacson and then Vice President Joseph Estrada also then chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Estrada and Lacson, fearful for their lives, made a pact with the notorious gang. They allegedly recruited some Kuratong members into the PACC to go after their fellow underworld characters.

They were successful in that the gang was also able to convince some members of the PACC, according to my sources, to rob banks and kidnap rich Chinese.

* * *

When Erap became President, he allegedly allowed the Kuratong to engage in rice smuggling in Ozamiz City, the gang's home base.

The gang was allegedly untouchable during Erap's time. Customs officials who seized smuggled cargoes belonging to the gang were reassigned to Manila.

That's how Erap and Lacson allegedly controlled the crime syndicates in the country when the former actor was in power. The Erap-Ping tandem allegedly left the Kuratong gang to go on their merry ways.

* * *

Mutiny leader Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV owned eight luxury vehicles, according to records at the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

But Trillanes, testifying at the Feliciano Commission yesterday, said he only owned three of such vehicles—a Nissan Terrano and two Delica vans. He said that his mother runs a rent-a-car business.

Oh, yeah? Where did she get the money to go into that business? She was married to a Navy captain, now deceased. Could the elder Captain Trillanes have accumulated enough money to finance a rent-a-car business?

However, the material aid given to armed groups that go after the enemies of the state is not listed in the regular accounting of supplies. Such aid is given in the stealth because it's illegal in the public eye.

But the practice has been there for many, many years.

METROBRIEFS

Willing to help

THE UNITED States Bureau of Customs has expressed its willingness to help the National Bureau of Investigation in probing the July 27 attempted coup. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said that US Customs officials, in a letter, said they were willing to assist in tracing the source of some of the equipment rebel soldiers used in the mutiny. Wycoco said that US authorities also want to find out if Americans were involved. US officials said they would prosecute offenders under Federal law. *Leila Salaverria*

Hostage-taker slain

POLICE yesterday shot and killed a man known only as "Gary Boy" for taking hostage an 11-year-old girl near the Marikina-San Mateo boundary. Marikina police chief Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, Jr., said the man snatched the girl and took her to a shed in front of the Fortune Tobacco factory in Parang. Rojas said the man was intent on hurting the girl, that was why the police decided to shoot down the suspect. *Luige del Puerto*

In for life

A MAN has been sentenced to life imprisonment for raping his own daughter 12 years ago. Manila Judge Oscar Barrientos found the man guilty of forcing his daughter, then aged 15, to have sexual intercourse with him. Court records showed that the victim was raped a day after Christmas in 1991. *Tarra Quismundo*

Baby drowns in pail of water

By Tina Santos

A BOY, 9, on Tuesday left the side of his brother, 8 months old, and decided to play for a while in their residence on Quirino Highway, Baesa, Quezon City.

The next time he saw the baby, the victim was submerged in a pail of water, police said.

Central Police District investigators said the parents of the victim left for work early that morning and left the care of the baby to their eldest son.

The father is a jeepney driver, while the mother is a sidewalk vendor, police said.

Investigators said that while the 9-year-old was playing at around 5 p.m., he failed to notice that the baby had crawled toward the bathroom.

When he looked for his brother the boy saw the baby inside the water container.

The boy sought the help of a neighbor, who took the baby to a clinic. But they were too late, police said.

Woman slain in ambush

By Leila Salaverria

CALOOCAN City Hall employee Cecilia Ramos, 38, yesterday was waiting for a taxi at the corner of Cavite and Juan Luna streets in Tondo, Manila, when a man walked up to her and shot her twice with a .45-caliber gun, police said.

Witnesses told police that after shooting Ramos twice, the gunman pumped three more bullets into the victim, SP02 Steve Casimiro said.

"She was probably dead (after the first two shots), yet the suspect still shot her," the lawman said.

A man behind the wheel of a "Pajero-type" sports utility vehicle, with government license plates (SAF-808), waited for the gunman to board the vehicle before driving away, Casimiro said.

Man takes on 3

PEDICAB driver Jesus Maturan, 46, single-handedly took on three men who allegedly slapped his wife inside a Manila videoke bar yesterday.

Maturan, of San Andres, Manila, was armed with a 12-inch kitchen knife when he took on Jose Malandac, Wilfredo Palinacion and Ronnie Tobias.

Maturan was still stabbing the victims when the police arrived at the Husher's Videoke Bar in San Andres at around 2:30 a.m., SP02 Virgo Villareal said.

Malandac of Makati City was killed, while Palinacion, '39, and Tobias, 39, were wounded in the fray, Villareal added.

Leila Salaverria

Read the editorial that shook Malacañang.

Chaos In The Philippines

"In May, President Bush welcomed Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the White House and toasted her as an essential ally in the war on terror. The Bush administration's attempts to work with the Southeast Asian nation are important, as the region is a hotbed of terrorism and the Philippines is an old friend to America. Unfortunately, Mrs. Arroyo's inabilities as a leader and lack of control of the military make an already volatile country even more dangerous. Philippine Congressman Imee Marcos — daughter of former President Ferdinand Marcos — said on Monday that Mr. Bush's planned state visit to Manila should be postponed due to a security breakdown in the archipelago. We agree. The message needs to be clear that Mrs. Arroyo must get a grip on the chaos.

A growing number of Filipinos think Mr. Lacson — who is running for president — offers the best chance to quell domestic disorder and control the military. Mrs. Arroyo clearly cannot do it.

The situation in the Philippines is deteriorating from bad to worse, and this has global implications. Last month, Fathur Rahman al-Ghozi, a leader of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiya terror network, escaped from a maximum-security Philippine prison with the help of Philippine police. Al-Ghozi was jailed for possession of explosives and is tied to numerous bombings across Asia. Jemaah Islamiya was responsible for last year's car bombings in Bali and is suspected to be behind yesterday's deadly blast at the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, among many other attacks. As a result of al-Ghozi's escape, which is the result of corruption in Mrs. Arroyo's government, the world can expect many more bombings and countless more innocent deaths like yesterday's.

This is not the first time that terrorists have escaped from Philippine custody. Islamic radical Abu Sayyaf guerillas, who kidnapped and beheaded Americans, have paid their way out of captivity. In one instance, Abu Sayyaf fighters were allowed to slip out of a building that was surrounded. head of a major kidnap-for-ransom gang, somehow gave by Philippine soldiers. Last summer, Faizal Marohombsarthe shake to 24 armed cops guarding his cell. The failed July 27 military coup is a shocking warning as to how fragile Mrs. Arroyo's hold on power is. Military chiefs have even refused to appear before the legislature to address the mutiny. This bold lack of respect for civilian authority is a consequence of the way the President came to power without a democratic election. Two and a half years ago, it was the intervention of the generals that ousted her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, and placed Mrs. Arroyo in office. Because the reality is that she owes them for her position as much as she needs them to keep it, the brass is untouchable.

Bizarrely enough, during the official state of rebellion declared after the military coup, it seems to be the free press that is under siege. On Sunday morning, Philippine police arrested Ninez Cacho-Olivarez, editor and publisher of the Manila-based Daily Tribune, a leading voice of political opposition, after she published a series of articles on alleged corruption in the Arroyo administration.

The president and her advisers should know that trying to muzzle their opponents gives credibility to their criticisms. During congressional elections shortly after its inauguration in 2001, the Arroyo administration declared a state of emergency and issued arrest warrants for four opposition candidates and three opposition senators on coup charges, which were dropped after the polls closed. One of those charged was Panfilo Lacson, a former general who increased discipline in the ranks and nearly eradicated kidnapping as head of the national police. A growing number of Filipinos think Mr. Lacson — who is running for president — offers the best chance to quell domestic disorder and control the military. Mrs. Arroyo clearly cannot do it."

The Washington Times
Editorial
August 06, 2003

Krimen.
Kurakot.

Laganap.

Kaya bagsak ang kabuhayan natin.

A wake-up call from Sagip Pinoy

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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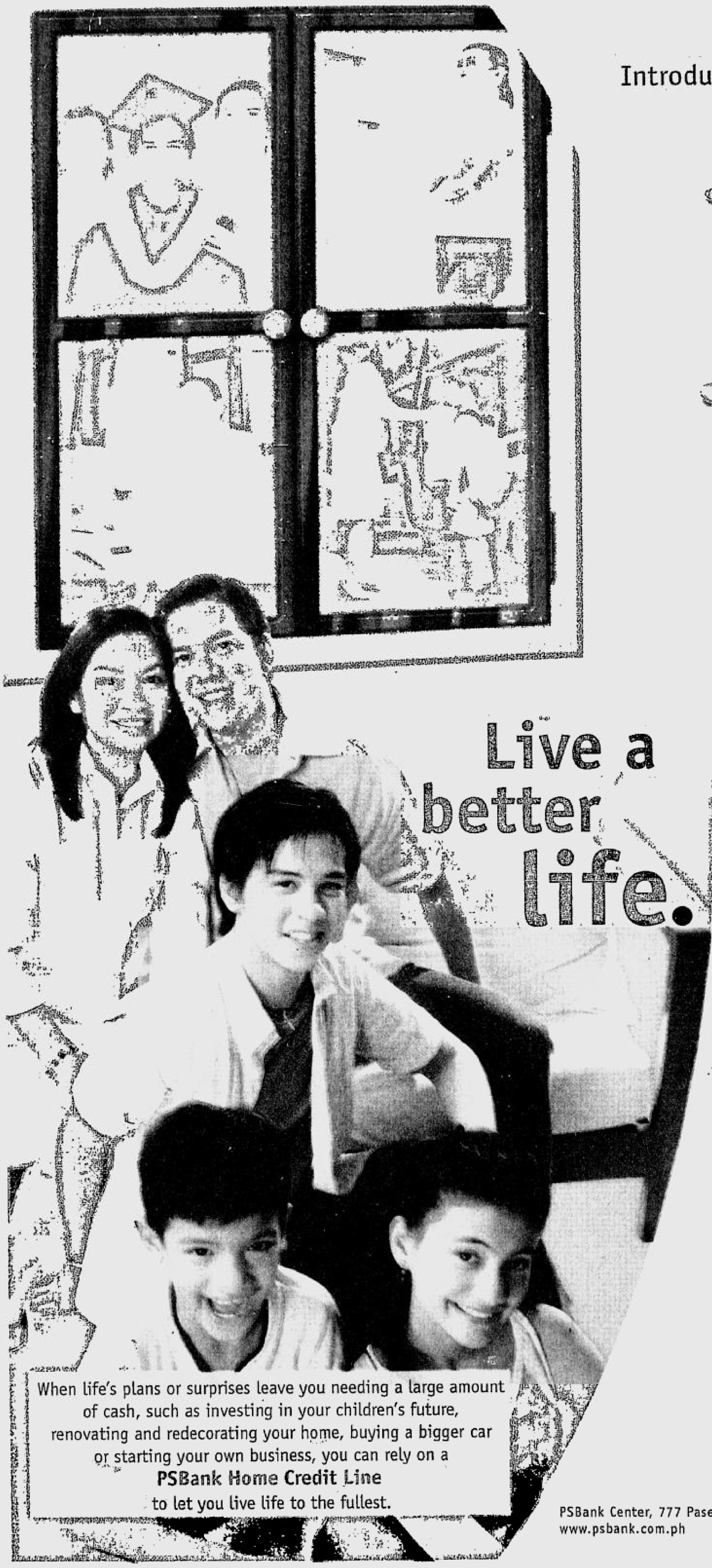
8 2 3 2
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
1 1 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 17 18 26 27 34

Quezon Ave. no crossing, no left turn zone /A20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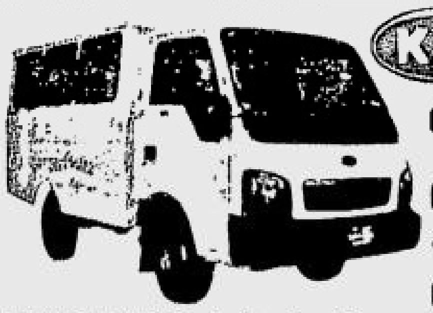

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PBA INVITATIONAL

Coca-Cola subdues RP five, enters semifinals

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA went through some anxious moments before subduing the Cebuana Lhuiller-RP Team, 91-83, last night to advance to the semifinals of the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Rob Wainwright drilled in a crucial jumper that broke a long scoreless spell and the Tigers smothered the Nationals with a stingy defense the rest of the way to join the Alaska Aces in the next round.

The Tigers wrapped up their elimination round campaign with three victories against a single defeat while the Cebuana Lhuiller RP Team ended their PBA exposure with only one win to show in four games.

Although losing all their games against PBA teams, the Nationals said the experience playing against the pros will help them in the future.

"We definitely learned a lot from our PBA stint. It will not only help us improve individually but allow us to grow as a team as well," said RP team coach Aric Del Rosario.

Celino Cruz, Ricky Calimag, Gary David and Willie Wilson gave the Tigers some scary moments, especially in the final 10 minutes when the Nationals trimmed a 14-point deficit to 87-82 with a minute and 40 seconds remaining.

But Wainwright buried a 21-footer from the right corner and the Nationals eventually folded up with successive misses by Cruz and David.

"The RP team has very good fundamentals. The addition of an Irvin Sotto or a Ranidel De Ocampo will help the team all the more. They are solid in the guard position and with another shooter on the lineup, they will fare pretty well in the SEA Games," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

SCORES:

COCA-COLA 91 — Reavis 17, Carlaso 16, Hugnatan 14, Hatfield 11, Abarrientos 10, Antonio 6, Wainwright 6, Morano 5, Juinio 4, Chia 2, Bolado 0.

CEBUANA-LHUILLER 83—Cruz 17, Calimag 15, David 14, Wilson 14, Omolon 6, Pingris 5, Junio 5, Melencio 4, Franco 3, Oreta 0, Madrid 0.

Quarters: 25-22, 42-39, 65-60, 91-83

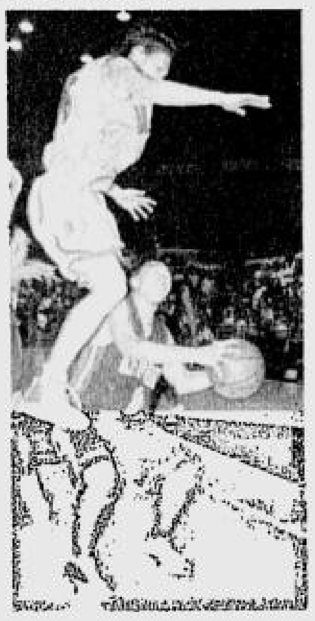
White supremacists target Kobe

EAGLE, Colorado— Racist fliers were scattered Tuesday on lawns and windshields in the town where Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant is to go on trial on sexual assault charges.

Later Tuesday, a white supremacist group acknowledged leaving the fliers—headlined "Don't have sex with blacks"—and said they were in response to the Bryant case.

"We're concerned about areas such as Eagle County, where they have a relatively small number of blacks," Erich Gliebe, a spokesman for West Virginia-based National Alliance, said in a telephone interview. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE



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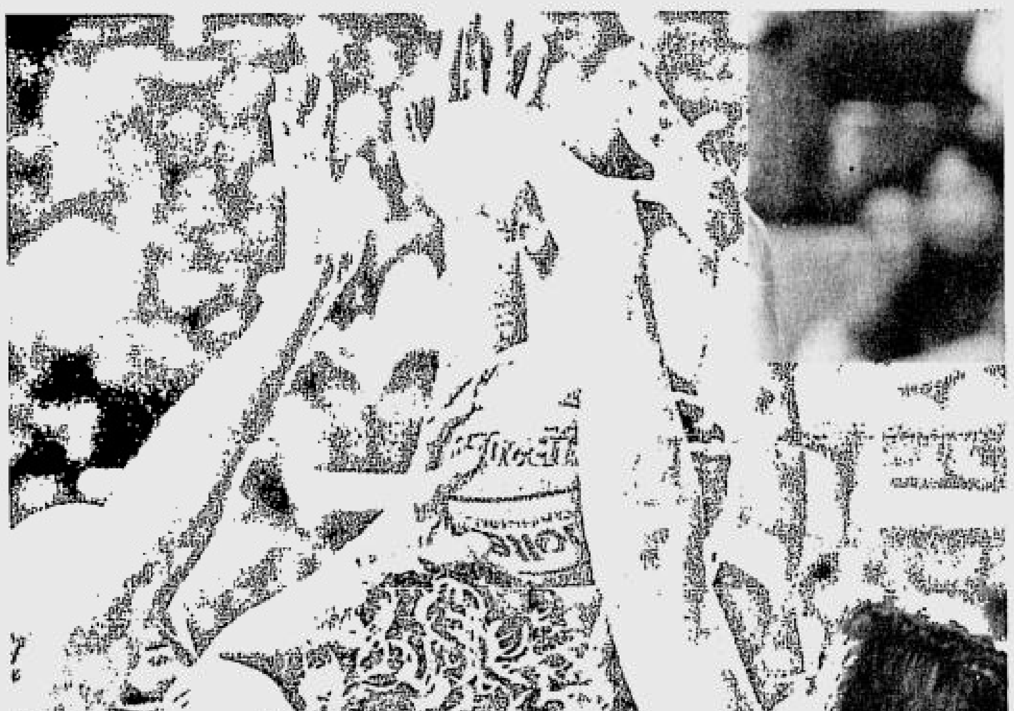
- Woods, Els aim to end drought /A25
- Sluggish Hewitt booted out /A25



TNT's Asi Taulava is bottled up by an air-tight Red Bull Barako defense. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

FedEx plans court case vs Hawkins

FROM the boardroom to the courtroom.

This is the path that the long contract dispute between Air21-FedEx and Rene "Bong" Hawkins will most probably take, Air21 president and FedEx team manager Lito Alvarez announced yesterday.

Alvarez said FedEx plans to seek the intervention of the courts after the PBA board decided Tuesday to give Hawkins the full amount of his remaining two-year contract worth P9.6 million.

But Alvarez pointed out that the suit, if it is filed, would not be against the PBA nor Hawkins.

"We'll talk to Tanduay first. But we're ready in case the contract dispute reaches the courts," said Alvarez.

FedEx inherited the contract of Hawkins after it purchased the franchise of Tanduay at the end of the 2001 season. But Hawkins had also signed a separate contract with Tanduay with an exit clause after two years of the contract.

The Express paid Hawkins the full amount of his contract in 2002 but opted to cut the payment short, citing the exit clause.

Alvarez said they have studied the probability of winning the case in court.

"Our lawyer has convinced us that we will not get a favorable ruling from the board, because the league has its own rules to be followed. But the case has a legal side so we're convinced that we have a very good chance of winning in court," said Alvarez.

June Navarro

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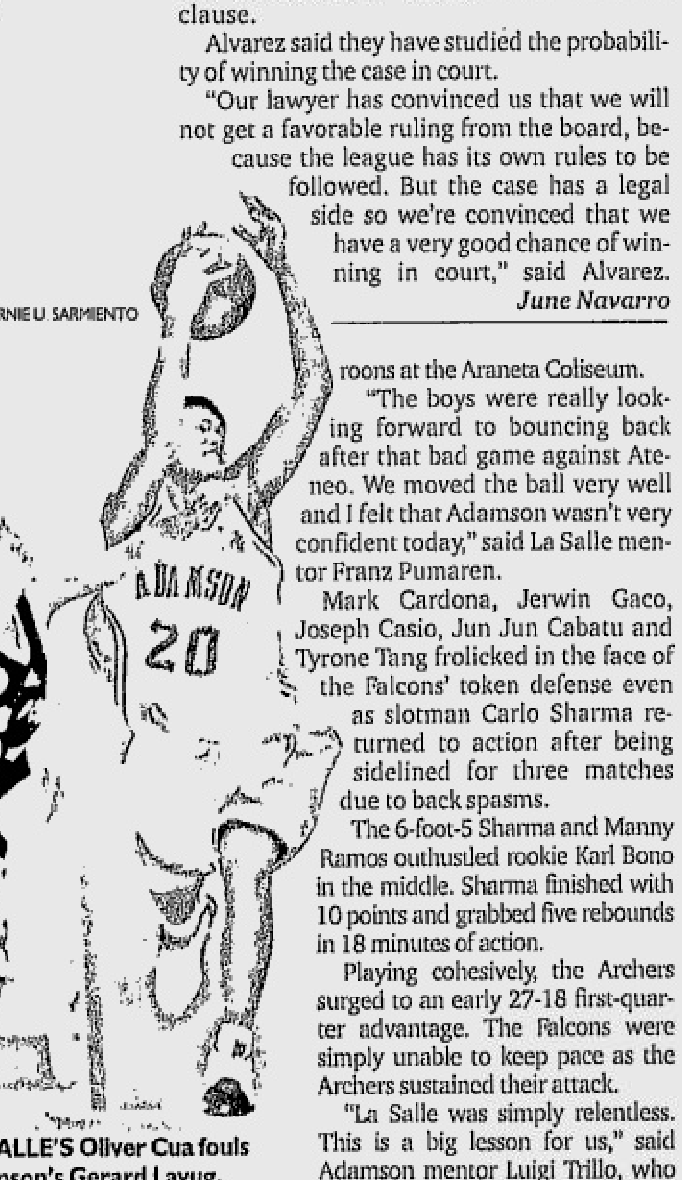
Archers bounce back, shoot down Falcons

GAMES SATURDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs FEU (Srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa



LA SALLE'S Oliver Cua fouls Adamson's Gerard Layug. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LA SALLE, confident and merciless, posted a trouble-free 81-61 triumph over Adamson yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Four days after being beaten badly by archrival and titleholder Ateneo, La Salle bounced back in style by completely dominating Adamson, which played sans its usual fire and intensity.

The win enabled the Archers to tie the Eagles for second place with a 5-2 card behind Far Eastern, which has the solo lead after winning six of its seven games.

Later, University of the East created a three-way logjam for second by beating UP, 75-65.

Rolly Masbang, Paul Artadi, James Yap and Jay-Ar Estrada finished in double figures as coach Boyzie Zamar's charges posted their third straight win. UP dropped to 1-6 in the company of NU.

The second round resumes on Saturday with the Tamaraws eyeing a repeat over the Archers and the Falcons clashing with the UP Maroons at the Araneta Coliseum.

"The boys were really looking forward to bouncing back after that bad game against Ateneo. We moved the ball very well and I felt that Adamson wasn't very confident today," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren.

Mark Cardona, Jerwin Gaco, Joseph Casio, Jun Jun Cabatu and Tyrone Tang frolicked in the face of the Falcons' token defense even as slotman Carlo Sharma returned to action after being sidelined for three matches due to back spasms.

The 6-foot-5 Sharma and Manny Ramos outhustled rookie Karl Bono in the middle. Sharma finished with 10 points and grabbed five rebounds in 18 minutes of action.

Playing cohesively, the Archers surged to an early 27-18 first-quarter advantage. The Falcons were simply unable to keep pace as the Archers sustained their attack.

"La Salle was simply relentless. This is a big lesson for us," said Adamson mentor Luigi Trillo, who fielded main man Mark Abadia sparingly for not playing team basketball.

With Abadia cooling his heels on

ARCHERS/ A24

Ang World Class na Tsinelas...
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Archers bounce back, shoot down Falcons

From page A23

the bench, rookie Marvin Poloyopoy and Ramil Tagupa tried to rally the Falcons but the most that they could do was come within 46-60 before Joseph Yeo, Casio and Sharma boosted the Archers to a 73-53 lead, 6:58 remaining in the fourth period.

The victory preserved La Salle's sterling record of not losing back-to-back games since 1997. For Adamson, which dropped to 3-4, it was the 14th straight time that it bowed to La Salle dating back to 1996.

SCORES: (Jrs)

ADAMSON 78—Canuday 32, Bautista 21, Espina 6, Balila 5, Johnston 4, edano 4, amparo 3, Pandaan 2, Racho 1, Opelac 0.

LA SALLE ZOBEL 68—Abelardo 15, Poblete 12, Roxas 9, Reyes 9, Atkins 7, Juban 6, flores 6, Dino 4, Posadas), Ornedo 0, De Asis 0.

Quarterscores:18-12, 31-23, 50-37, 78-68

Second Game (srs)

LA SALLE 81—Cardona 18, Gaco 11, Sharma 10, Yeo 9, Casio 7, Arana 6, Cabatu 6, Ramos 6, Tang 3, Benitez 3, Walsham 2, Chua 0.

ADAMSON 61—Poloyopoy 13, Abadia 13, Tagupa 11, Bono 10, Alonzo 3, hate 3, Tajonera 2, Gandarosa 2, Tiongco 2, Catabay 2, Capati 0.

Quarterscores: 27-18, 48-34, 65-47, 81-61

Third Game (srs)

UE 75—Masbang 17, Artadi 16, Yap 12, Estrada 10, Booker 7, Tan 4, Butel 4, Omiping 3, Tamayo 2, Hubalde 0, Labagala 0.

UP 65—Bornancin 13, Robin 12, Almeda 11, Cruz 8, Ibanes 7, Cervantes 6, Tabique 6, David 2, Buyco 0, Manlapaz 0, Ferrer 0, Epres 0.

Quarters: 18-23, 32-37, 57-54, 75-65.

Rough play mars Cards' flight to top

By June Navarro

MAPUA'S shock-troopers delivered the goods as the Cardinals walloped the Letran Knights, 77-67, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

And with defending champion San Sebastian outclassing San Beda, 83-75, the Cardinals moved into a three-way tie for the lead with the Knights and the Lions at 6-3.

The Stags improved to 5-4.

Sean Co and Raymond Gorospe put the cuffs on the explosive Ronjay Enrile while making the shots that mattered most in the third period as the Cardinals posted their second straight victory.

But things nearly got out of hand when Mapua skipper Christian Guevarra threw a vicious elbow at Enrile with 15 seconds left and the Cardinals ahead, 77-61.

This caused an uproar among the Knights, with Jonathan Aldave pushing every Cardinal that crossed his path. Letran coach Louie Alas and some of the school's officials also invaded Mapua's side of the court and engaged hecklers in a shouting match.

But the fans who courted the ire of the Letran officials belonged to a huge San Beda crowd eagerly waiting for the Red Lions to see action against San Sebastian College in the next game.

"The crowd behind the Mapua bench was San Beda's. They wanted Letran to lose, so that in the event San Beda wins, the Lions will be the solo leaders," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

Guevarra was later slapped an unsportsmanlike foul while Aldave, who shoved Guevarra and company, got a technical foul.

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*

9:30 a.m.—UPHR vs CSB (jrs)
11 a.m.—JRU vs PCU (jrs)
2 p.m.—UPHR vs CSB (srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs PCU (srs)

Co had earlier buried two three-pointers to complement his fine defensive work on Enrile as the Cardinals broke away from 45-all and took a 55-45 lead going into the final quarter.

With Enrile well-covered, Jeffrey Martin, Jeff Gonzales, Nat Cruz and Gorospe kept the Knights at bay."Our game plan focused on Enrile and (Boyet) Bautista," said Lim.

SCORES:

First Game (Srs)

MAPUA 77—Gonzales 16, Martin 13, Cruz 12, Dula 10, Co 6, Guevarra 6, Salud 5, Gorospe 4, Migraso 3, Veranga 2, David 0, Sumalinog 0.

LETRAN 67—Enrile 12, Rodriguez 12, Pinera 11, Reyes 10, Santos 7, Bautista 7, Aldave 7, Fedelicio 1, Balneg 0.

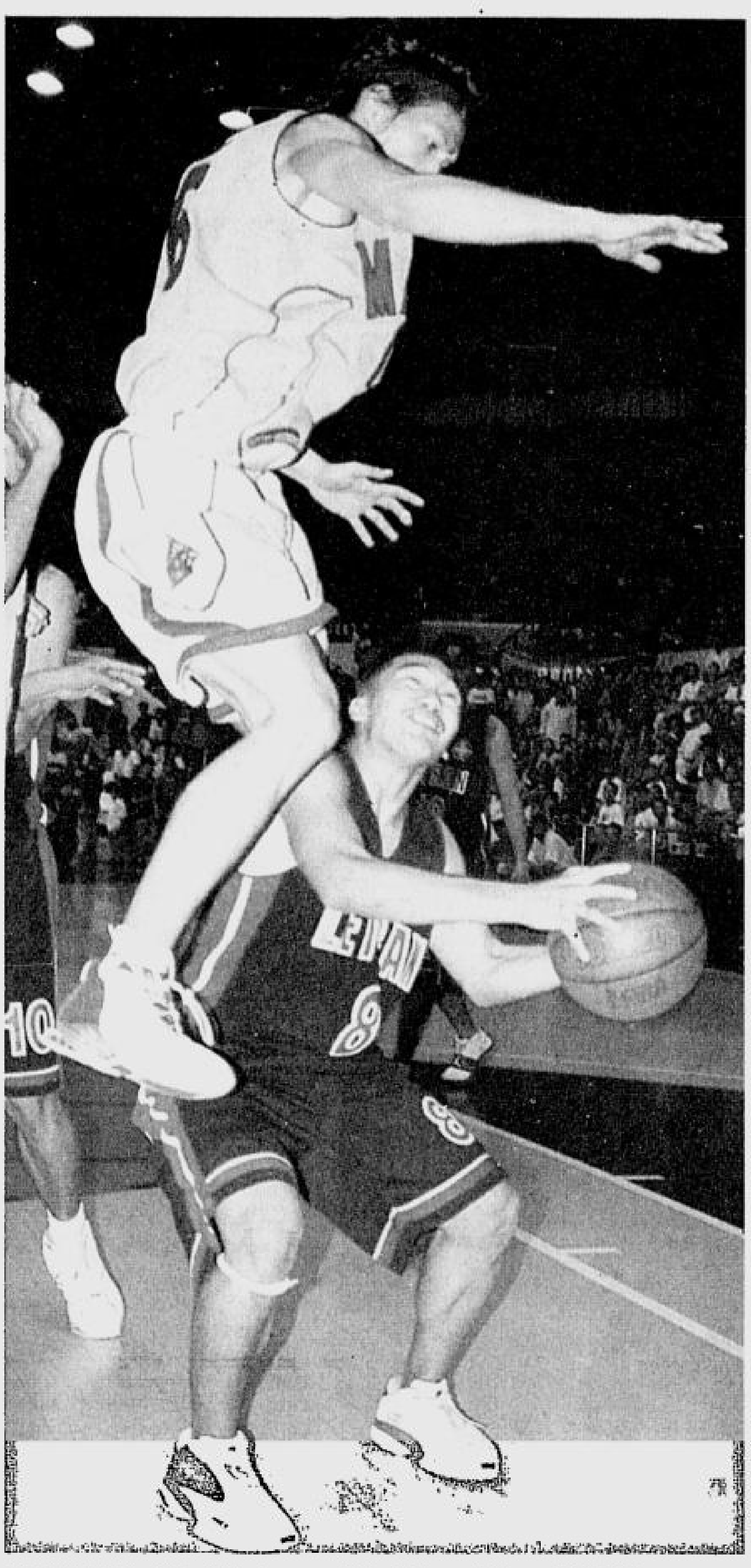
Quarters: 16-21, 31-32, 55-45, 77-67

Second Game (Srs)

SSC 83—Najorda 19, Baluyot 17, Moore 16, Uy 13, Vicente 12, Aguilar 4, Maneclang 1. Gonzales 1. Reveche 0. Estole 0, Lim 0, Santos 0.

SBC 75—Cordero 20, Casino 14, Weber 12, Bughao 11, Paterno 10, Ong 4, Hudencial 4, Padilla 0, Antonio 0, Angeles 0, Bombeo 0, Apepe 0, Baldivia 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 48-32, 64-52, 83-75.



LETRAN'S Boyet Bautista throws off the defense of Mapua's Christian Guevarra with a fake in their game yesterday at Makati Coliseum. RUDY ESPERAS

RP batters unscathed in softball World Series

THE STRONG Philippine team won two games like host Kalamazoo, Michigan Tuesday to share the lead in Pool A of the 2003 Big League Softball World Series.

The Filipina batters, reinforced by eight standouts from the University of the Philippines (UP) varsity team, edged Charleston, West Virgina, 2-1, and then blanked Riverside, California, 3-0, at the Lee field in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

POOL A

STANDINGS	W	L
Philippines	2	0
Kalamazoo	2	0
Netherlands	2	1
W. Virginia	0	2
California	0	3

Kalamazoo also beat the Riverside, California squad, which is the United States' Western Region titlist, and clobbered the European champion Netherlands, 15-0.

The RP team, the Asia-Pacific champion, play their last two games in the round robin elimination Wednesday.

The Nationals face Netherlands (2-1) at 3:30 p.m (US time) at Hassan Field before taking on Kalamazoo, Michigan at 6 p.m at nearby Wilson Field.

Latin America champ Puerto Rico and 2001 world series titlist Waldorf, Maryland lead Pool B with identical 2-0 slate. *Rey Danseco*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: LPGA Evian Masters; 1 p.m.; ESPN—The pressure mounts as the action reaches the third round in Les Bains, France.

85th PGA Championship; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Solar Sports.

TENNIS: Western and Southern Financial Group Masters; 7 a.m. (r - 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—The field is further trimmed down in this event from Cincinnati,

BASKETBALL: Pacers vs Knicks, Game 1, 1995 Eastern Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—To stun New York in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semis, Reggie Miller scores 8 points with 8.9 secs to go to steal the win.

Pledging session for athletes up

THE COUNTRY'S all-out bid to perform strongly in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games gets a shot in the arm tomorrow when the First Gentleman Foundation Inc. holds an unprecedented pledging session.

Designed to raise funds to sustain the training of the country's gold medal hopefuls in the forthcoming biennial games, the pledging session will be held starting at 11 a.m. at the Heroes Hall of Malacañang with officials of top corporations in attendance.

FGFI chair Jose Miguel Arroyo will welcome the athletes, corporate officials and members of media while Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit will introduce the gold medal prospects. FGFI consultant Rod Feliciano and former swim queen Akiko Thomson will emcee the program.

FROM left: Mr. Arroyo, Buhain, Dayrit

The monetary pledges from these corporations will help fund the last three months of training of the country's gold medal hopefuls competing in the SEA Games Dec. 5-13 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

The FGF has decided to conduct a pledging session after a series of consultation meetings with the POC and the PSC. Tomorrow's activity is in line with the "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo" sports project.

The pledging session, "Alay Ko Para sa Medalyang Ginto," will be preceded by a presentation of the country's gold medal bets from a list jointly drawn up by the PSC and the POC.

Buhain and Dayrit said these athletes are considered legitimate gold medal contenders in their events based on their past performance in local and international competitions and on the gold medal winning performances in these events in the last SEA Games.

Mr. Arroyo said that it is high time all Filipinos, especially the corporate sector, be actively involved in the development of Filipino sports heroes. "The entire nation basks in the collective honor and pride whenever an athlete brings home the gold. It is only fitting that we take a more dynamic part in the training of our Filipino sports heroes," Arroyo said.

Eighty five athletes are tagged as the Philippine's gold medal hopefuls in the 2003 SEAG.

Four bets, 5 coaches join SEA Games roster

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOUR more athletes and five officials were added to the national delegation going to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games by the SEA Games technical commission during its meeting yesterday.

Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president Steve Hontiveros, who also heads the commission, said two female and one male table tennis players and one female weightlifter have made it to the now 381-member RP roster.

Also approved was the inclusion of three foreign gymnastics coaches and two volleyball mentors to the list of officials which now stands at 121.

Hontiveros said the commission was compelled to add additional coaches in volleyball because of a guideline which requires a team to have two coaches. Failure to comply with the guideline means a $5,000 fine, he added.

The technical commission also discussed the hosting turnover ceremony in December where the country is expected to provide a presentation after receiving the SEAG flag from Vietnam as host of the 2005 games.

Hontiveros said the commission also decided on *barong* as official parade uniform of the delegation during the opening ceremony.

An endangered species

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU must remember that Freddie Uytengsu is an American. As such, his culture differs from us.

For example, Freddie, because he is an American, tells it as he sees it. He minces no words. To him, everything is only either white or black. He speaks his mind, if not all of the time, most of the time. If he gets in trouble, he doesn't mind. You might think that what he says would put him in hot water? Make Freddie an exception. To him, it's all fair comment.

So, let's not be hard on Freddie. Truth is, many Filipinos are like Freddie, too: They hate hypocrisy.

If Freddie says it's not good to see a Fil-Sham-laced champion team win a PBA crown, what's wrong with that?

He is not just expressing an opinion. He is telling us what's morally right. Or, if you will, he's just merely stating the obvious.

I don't see anything wrong there. In fact, he ought to be congratulated. Given applause. Standing ovation. Only those who are guilty of a crime ought to be hurt.

The trouble with us sometimes is, we tend to hate people who talk straight and call spade a spade. That's why we can't move forward all the time because most of the time, we hold our punches when we see evil rears its ugly head.

We forgive so easily and treat wrongdoers with kid gloves. Who can forget the push-ups meted out as mere punishment on coup plotters a while back?

We tend to cure a disease only at its terminal stage.

Marcos lasted that long because we allowed him to stay that long.

Age-cheaters abound in sports and the malady goes on unabated because we always turn a blind eye on those who practise such despicable act.

Because a wrong practice has been there so long, we just merely dismiss it with a shrug of the shoulder when it confronts us point-blank, as though it has become our way of life. When someone else blows the whistle on it, the whistle blower gets crucified instead of beautified.

Freddie Uytengsu is being crucified right now for giving us a piece of his mind, for speaking the truth really. But the truer thing is that even minus his frank stateVments, fakery exists. A fake will always be a fake and no amount of cover-up can hide the fakery happening all around us.

So, again, the questions:

Who wants a champion team that harbors a fake Fil-Am?

Not me.

Who wants a fake champion in a league whose most legendary product is now a senator of the republic?

Not me.

It stinks, stains the league's reputation no end each time we hear of the existence of Fil-Shams in the PBA.

A war medal won on fakery is as worthless as a dead fly.

A PBA trophy won on fakery is worth tossing into a murky canal.

A league like the PBA, if it harbors a fake Fil-Am, a fake champion team, doesn't deserve to exist a minute longer.

It can be said that the PBA has been had. Meaning, the league might have been the victim, not the instigator. In its sheer wish to offer a dish worth the while of the public, it enticed Fil-Ams to join the league. A noble move, I'd say, and should deserve our collective cheer.

Who doesn't want a show that has variety, an entertainment fare that kills monotony, if not downright boredom?

Fil-Ams? Oh, how I have loved them, and continue to love them.

Isn't Freddie Webb a Fil-Am like Robert Jaworski, who both happen to be among the greatest players the PBA has ever produced?

Webb was a former senator. Jaworski is now a senator.

Fil-Ams embellish the menu, provide fresh insights, whet the appetite of customers whose tastes are as discriminating as collectors of classical music.

It's when Fil-Shams—the ugly creations of collaborators out to milk the unsuspecting and, in the process, sabotaging the great foundations of Asia's first play-for-pay league—start invading us that our ideals become unconscionably polluted.

Suddenly, the town crier named Freddie Uytengsu gets it in the neck from a mob allergic to morally upright ideas, if not downright bad news.

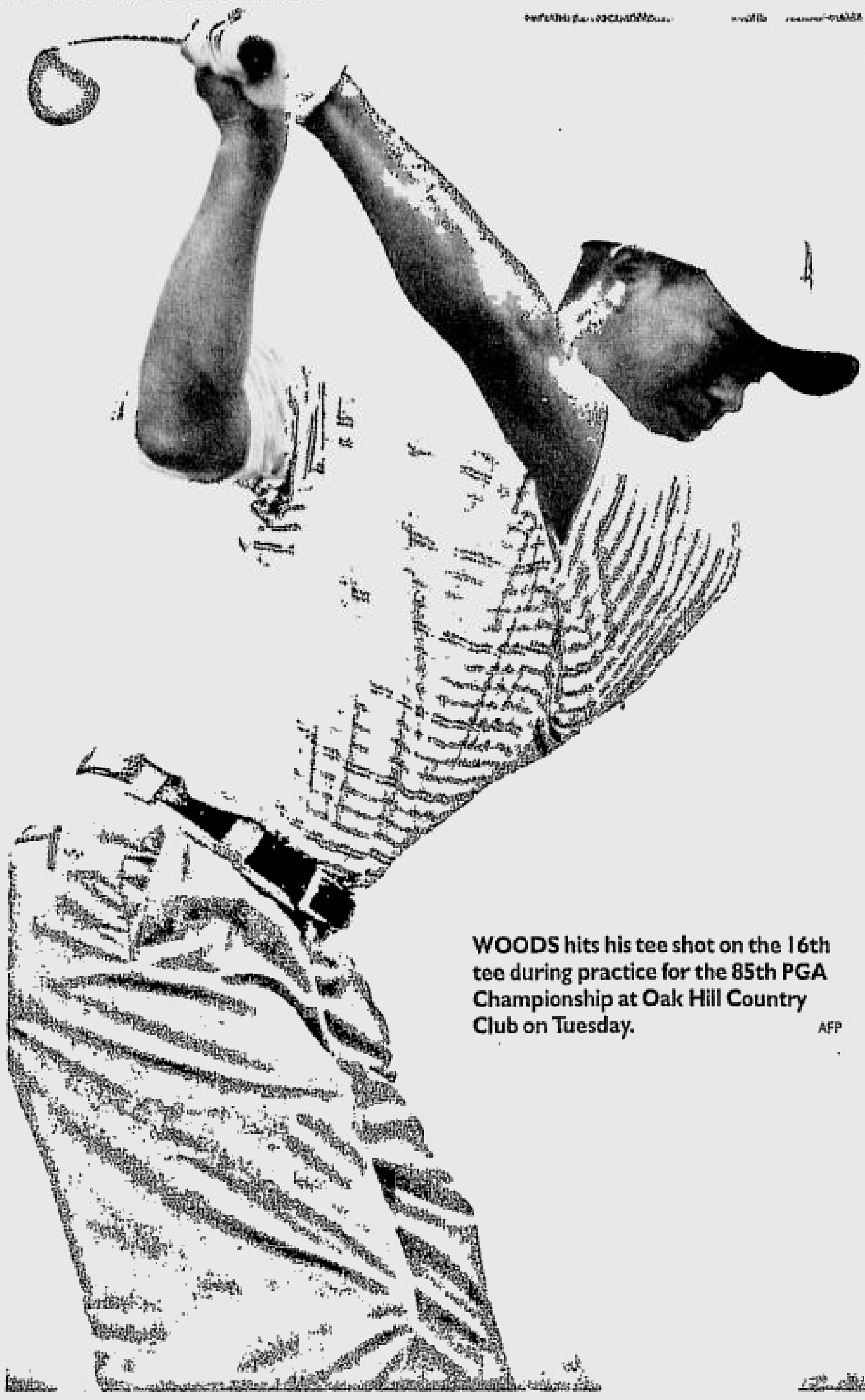
Suddenly, the PBA pillars are shaken by a nightmare that was not really of their own creation but a product of a collusion of forces that is, sadly, beyond their control.

Suddenly, the greatest show in town has become an endangered species.

Unless a concrete and, therefore, convincing solution is found in the quickest time possible, the league's famous phoenix cannot hope to soar from the ruins of all this fakery of catastrophic proportions, the way it did when it got brutally buffeted by that terrible economic crunch in 1983 in the aftermath of Ninoy Aquino's assassination.

Enough of the "peke" thing, please?

Woods, Els aim to end drought


WOODS hits his tee shot on the 16th tee during practice for the 85th PGA Championship at Oak Hill Country Club on Tuesday. AFP

ROCHESTER, New York—Tiger Woods and Ernie Els have something in common heading into this week's PGA Championship.

They're enjoying successful seasons, having combined for nine PGA and European Tour victories. They stand first and second, respectively, in the world golf rankings. And they're both faced with the same question—why neither has won a major championship this year.

"It's been more of annoyance than anything, because I have to keep answering it," Woods said, when the subject was, predictably, raised Tuesday. "I've tried. It's not like I'm not trying out there."

Perhaps, it's raised expectations, said Els, who's won five events, including three on the European Tour, and got off to a strong start by winning four of them by Feb. 16.

"You know, to win twice in a year on this Tour is pretty nice," Els said of his victories at the Mercedes Championships and Sony Open in January. "So I haven't played to the same standard that I set at the start of the year and, you know, we are where we are."

They are at Oak Hill, where a long, tight and potentially meaty course—along with 94 of the world's other top 100-ranked players—stand in their way of winning the season's final major.

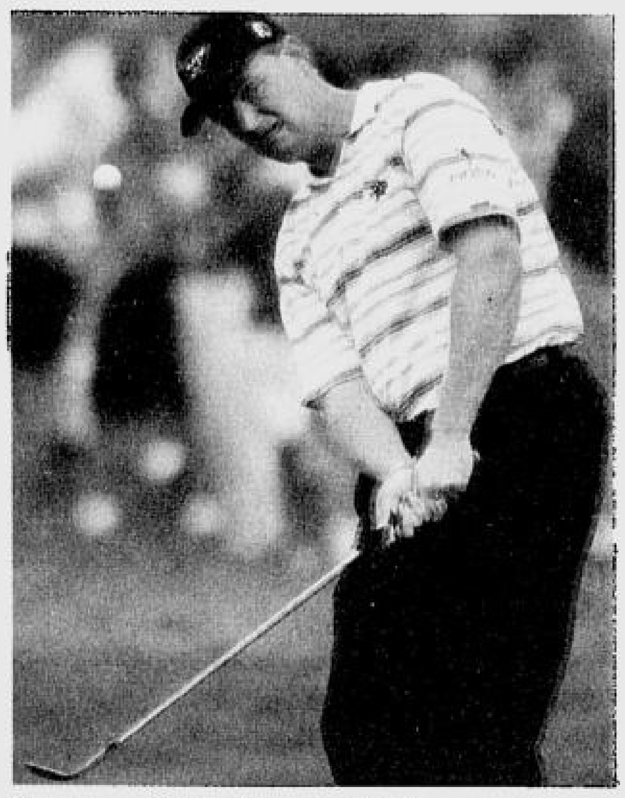
In a year that's featured three first-time major winners, and the reemergence of a hard-charging Davis Love III, plenty of eyes are on the formidable duo, which has combined for 11 major victories (Woods has eight), and is measured by how well they play at big events.

(The 85th PGA Championships will be telecast by Solar Sports "live" and in full from Aug. 15 to 18 on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable. First-round action will be shown live at 2 a.m. on Friday, with a replay at 3:30 p.m.)

Woods' season serves as an example of how his performance is gauged differently than that of others.

He leads the Tour with four victories, and is coming off a tie for fourth at the British Open and a second-place finish at the Buick Open. And yet he's being asked whether the gap has closed between him and the rest of the field.

"I don't know," Woods answered. "I've never really looked at it that way, even then and even now. *AP*


ELS chips out of the fringe onto the 5th green at the Oak Hill Country Club. REUTERS

Sluggish Hewitt booted out

Wimby champ Federer bucks upset ax in Cincinnati Masters

MASON, Ohio—A sluggish Lleyton Hewitt lost his composure and his first-round match in the Cincinnati Masters, falling to Xavier Malisse 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The Australian grew angry at himself and swiped his racket in frustration as Malisse took control early in the third set Tuesday and held on for his first victory over a top-10 player this year.

"I just didn't feel great out there today," said Hewitt, who has slipped to No. 6 in the world after being ranked No. 1 all last year. "I don't really know why."

Four seeded players lost their first-round matches Tuesday in the $2.45 million tournament. Top-ranked Andre Agassi withdrew two days before it opened.

In the most dramatic match of the day, Wimbledon champion Roger Federer narrowly avoided a first-round upset, saving seven match points before beating Scott Draper in three sets.

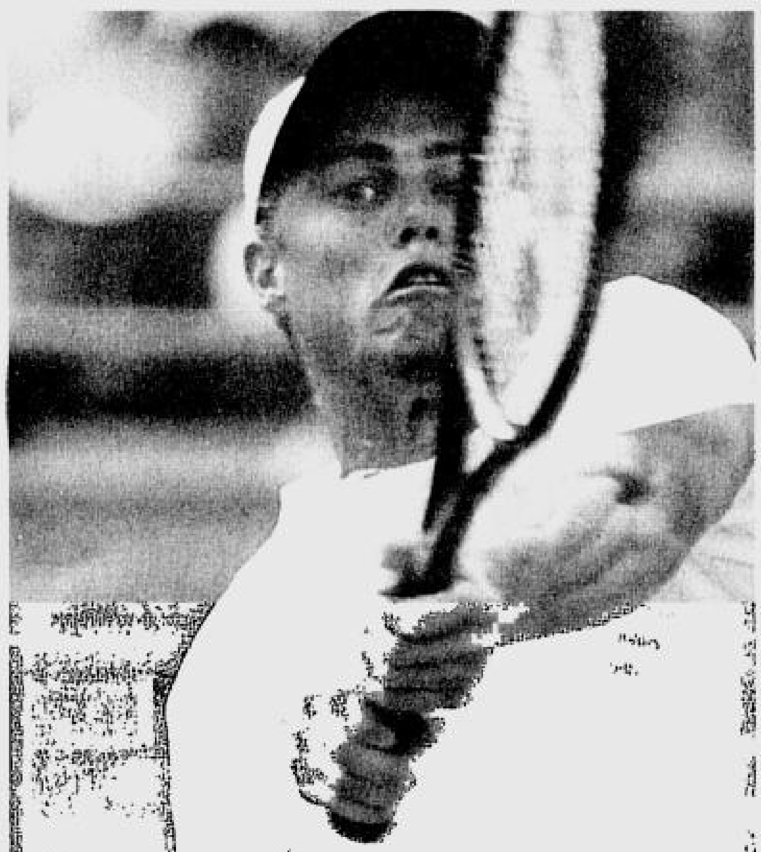
Federer, ranked No. 2 behind Agassi, rallied for a 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10) victory over a qualifier who has never been ranked higher than No. 42 in his career.

Dokic advances

TORONTO—Eighth-seeded Jelena Dokic cruised past Indonesian qualifier Angelique Widjaja, 6-4, 6-4, to move into the third round at the Rogers AT&T Cup on Tuesday.

Dokic, who received a first-round bye, has struggled to string wins together this season, and reached only one semifinal. She made it to the last four at the Cup a year ago, and is seeded to next meet No. 10 Vera Zvonareva.

No. 7 Amanda Coetzer, No. 14 Nadia Petrova and No. 15 Nathalie Dechy also won, but No. 6 Magdalena Maleeva, No. 13 Eleni Daniilidou and No. 16 Svetlana Kuznetsova lost.


HEWITT hits a backhand during his match with Malisse. AP

Asian Athletics gets GMA endorsement

PRESIDENT Arroyo yesterday proclaimed 2003 as the Asian Athletics Championship Year.

The presidential order embodied in Proclamation No. 432 is expected to boost and enhance the country's international image as a sports mecca. The country is preparing for its third hosting of the prestigious Asian Athletic Association championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal track and field stadium.

The four-day meet, highlighted by an Asian Athletics Congress on Sept. 19, is the biggest and most important sports spectacle to be held in the continent this year.

President Arroyo also directed the Organizing Committee, in cooperation with the Philippine Sports Commission, "to act as the lead agency in planning, disseminating information and conducting the sporting event."

"All heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, local government units, government-owned and- controlled corporations and instrumentalities of the government particularly the Philippine Sports Commission are hereby directed to give full assistance to the Organizing Committee of the 15th Asian Track and Field Championships," the presidential proclamation stated.

Sultans of slam vow to thrill hoop fans

SLAM-DUNKERS flying over three people doing 360 turns, or stuffing two balls at the same time, or leaping over a car for that rim-rattler.

Slam Nation, the world's most popular group of slam dunkers, yesterday vowed to thrill Filipino fans with their repertoire during a presentation at the National Sports Grill, Greenbelt 1 in Makati City.

The group is in town for a six-day swing that will end in a performance during the Nike Battleground Asia National Finals at the Festival Supermall on Aug. 17.

On Friday, the dunkers from France will enthrall PBA fans at the Ynares Gym in Antipolo City with their brand of entertainment.

"We invited them here to give basketball fans a rare and exciting brand of basketball show," said Rely San Agustin, Nike Philippines Communications manager.

Cuba batters nip US; sprinter fails test

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Cuba beat arch-rivals the United States 3-1 on Tuesday to win the Pan American Games baseball gold medal for the ninth time running, while tempers flared on the soccer field and another gold medalist failed a dope test.

Referee Ricardo Valenzuela was escorted off the field by security staff to protect him from furious Colombian players after they lost 2-1 to a golden goal by Argentina in the soccer sem-finals.

Earlier, organizers announced that US sprinter Mickey Grimes had tested positive for ephedrine after winning the 100 meters last Wednesday.

Ariel Pestana produced three hits, including a double and a home run, to set up Cuba's win over the United States as the Caribbean islanders extended a golden run which began in Cali, Colombia, in 1971.

The US scored the first run on a sacrifice fly by Brent Lillibridge in the bottom of the second inning.

Cuba hit back with runs in the top of the sixth and seventh before Pestana whacked the ball out of the stadium for his homer in the top of the ninth.

Pitcher Norge Luis Vera gave up only two hits and a run in nine innings for Cuba.

The players chanted the name of President Fidel Castro as they celebrated on the pitch while the US sat dejected on the bench with their heads in their hands.

"This win is dedicated to the 'Comandante'," Vera told reporters.

Arch-rivals Argentina and Brazil will meet in the soccer final after both enjoyed fortuitous wins.

Colombia took a second-half lead through Abel Aguilar but Argentina snatched an equalizer when Manuel Perrone headed home in the fourth minute of injury time. Franco Cangele struck the golden goal winner eight minutes into extra time. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Miami Heat signs Odom for $63 M

MIAMI, Florida—If Lamar Odom has his way, in 15 days he no longer will be a member of the Los Angeles Clippers. The Miami Heat on Tuesday signed Odom, a restricted free agent forward, to an offer sheet. Reports have the deal valued at six years for $63 million. The Clippers have 15 days to match the offer or lose Odom to the rival NBA team without compensation. "We feel that he is a player that, if we do get, would complement the talents of our last two first-round picks - Caron Butler and Dwyane Wade," Heat coach Pat Riley said. *AFP*

Sy stuns rivals in karting series

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Tyson Sy of Team Cebu-Demvels upstaged highly favored rivals in the sixth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series last Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit. The 15-year-old Sy warded off pacesetting lady karter Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing in the tight battle to the finish line to rule the Open class of this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastway Racing. He finished the 15-lap race in 19:44.173 or just 0.046 second ahead of Bumgarner.

Badminton listing ends tomorrow

THE JVC Open Badminton Championships winds up its registration at 5 p.m. tomorrow with the tournament proper set to unwrap Aug. 25 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati. For details, call Nelson Asuncion at 09175288970 or IMG at 751-6751/52, 845-0162 (telefax) or email jenriqeuz@imgworld.com or visit the event's website at www.jvcopen.com.

La Salle, Lourdes dribblers lead SBP

REIGNING titlist La Salle Greenhills and Lourdes School (Mandaluyong) crushed their respective rivals to post victories No. 4 and lead in the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament recently at the Xavier School courts. The La Sallites ripped Notre Dame of Greater Manila, 73-49, in Group A while the Lourdes boys walloped Lourdes School (QC), 78-30, in Group B. Defending Passerelle titlist San Beda also clobbered its toughest Group A challenger, UST, 91-59, for its third straight triumph.

Dimakiling leads chess finalists

DAVAO City's Angeli Marie Dimakiling survived a three-game knockout phase to emerge as one of four finalists in the Kiddies division of the Mindanao Leg of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship held Aug. 9-10 at the Atrium, Gaisano Mall, Davao City. Dimakiling earned a trip to the grand finals to be held in Manila on Sept. 27-28, along with Jay Bulicatin of Panabo City, Ronnel Alsado, also of Panabo City and Sheider Nebato of General Santos City.

NCRFA trials for under-19 squad

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Football Association (NCRFA) announced that it will be conducting tryouts for the NCRFA Under-19 football squad that will compete in the national championships to be held in Iloilo, Oct. 2-9. The trials will be held at the San Beda College pitch on Saturday at 3 p.m. Birthday cut-off for footballers is Jan. 1, 1985, said NCRFA general secretary Phil Hagedorn. Coach Lloyd Lim, champion coach with the University of the East last year, was recently named head coach of the NCRFA squad.

Defense and sporting arms show

THE 2003 Defense & Sporting Arms Show Part II opens today at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B in Mandaluyong City with Mayor Benhur Abalos, Justice Renato Corona and PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane as special guests. Organized by the Association of Firearms & Ammunition Dealers of the Philippines and TradeShow International Inc., the five-day event serves as a one-stop-shop for defense and security requirement. It also serves as a venue for sporting top manufacturers and suppliers of defense and sporting arms, ammunition and sport shooting accessories to show their wares.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Two Thumbs Up 2. Nine West 3. Pretty Boy Chino 4. Wing Man

Race 2--1. Divine Right 2. Free Rein 3. Magnanimous

Race 3--1. Are You Happy 2. Muro Ami 3. Playing With Fire 4. Silent Wind 5. Noble Regent

Race 4--1. Boss Lino 2. D Pen Traveller 3. Modulo Queen 4. Fire 5. Shen Zhen Girl

Race 5--1. Mr. Taliban 2. Candon's Pride 3. Ashanti 4. Special Science

Race 6--1. La Española 2. Dancin Indy 3. Gold Martin

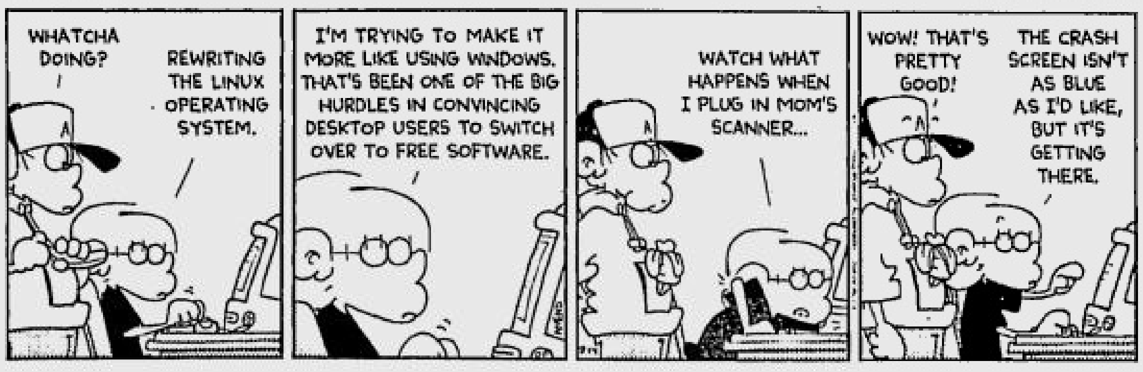
Race 7--1. Queen of Gaia 2. Traktora 3. Heartland 4. Nuts Again 5. Winning Streak

Race 8--1. Hurricane Doding 2. El Montruo 3. Super Dancer 4. Top Bullet

Race 9--1. Love Triangle 2. Kiss Me Quick 3. Express Strike 4. Earth Angel 5. Ebony Starr

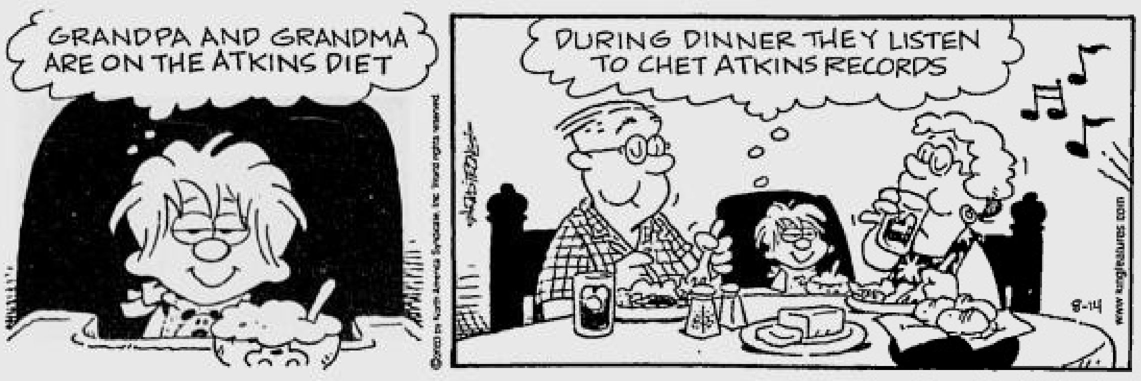
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHATCHA DOING?
REWRITING THE LINUX OPERATING SYSTEM.
I'M TRYING TO MAKE IT MORE LIKE USING WINDOWS. THAT'S BEEN ONE OF THE BIG HURDLES IN CONVINCING DESKTOP USERS TO SWITCH OVER TO FREE SOFTWARE.
WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PLUG IN MOM'S SCANNER...
WOW! THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
THE CRASH SCREEN ISN'T AS BLUE AS I'D LIKE, BUT IT'S GETTING THERE.

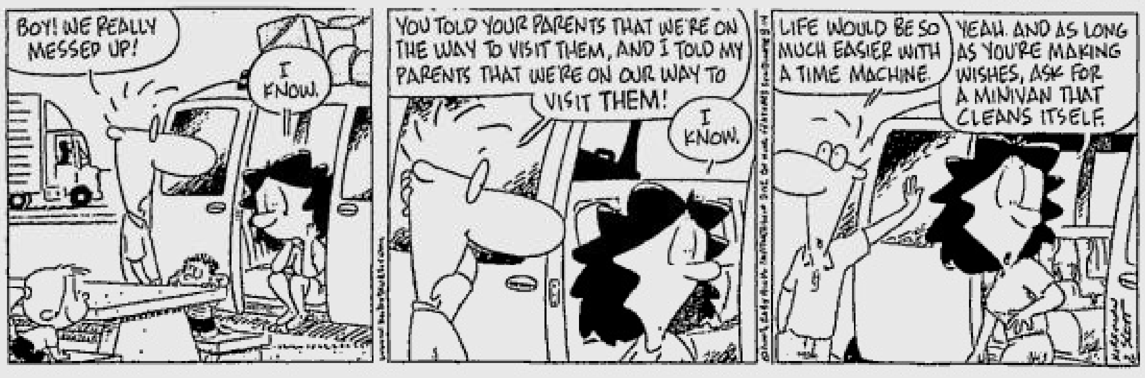
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


GRANDPA AND GRANDMA ARE ON THE ATKINS DIET
DURING DINNER THEY LISTEN TO CHET ATKINS RECORDS
8-14

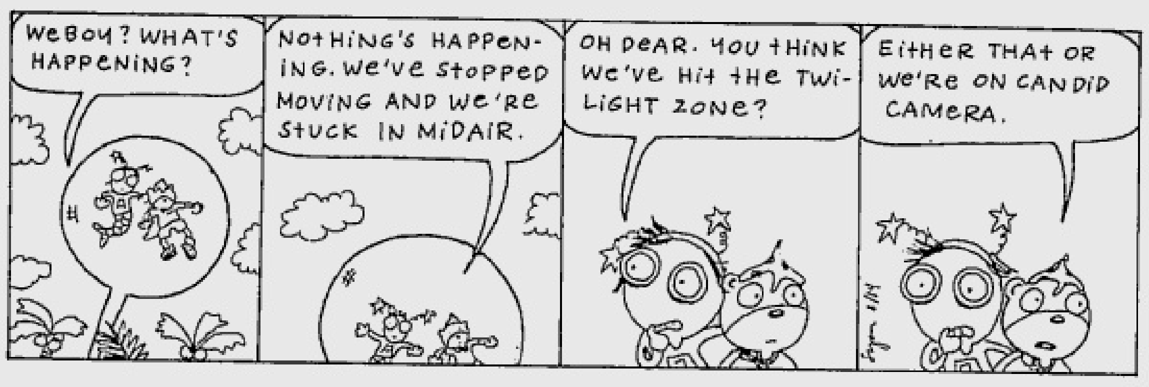
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BOY! WE REALLY MESSED UP!
I KNOW.
YOU TOLD YOUR PARENTS THAT WE'RE ON THE WAY TO VISIT THEM, AND I TOLD MY PARENTS THAT WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO VISIT THEM!
I KNOW.
LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER WITH A TIME MACHINE.
YEAH. AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE MAKING WISHES, ASK FOR A MINIVAN THAT CLEANS ITSELF.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBoy? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
NotHing's HAPPENing. We've StoPPeD Moving AND We're Stuck in MiDAIR.
OH Dear. You tHink We've Hit tHe TwiLight zone?
Either THAt or We're on CAnDiD CAmera.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are observant, and this makes you a great wit. You have strong personal integrity, and you reflect seriously upon things in life. You appreciate art and theater. Whatever you do, you will assume the role of teacher and leader. People respect you. This year you will leave things behind to move in a new direction.
Birthdate of: Halle Berry, actress; Sarah Brightman, singer; Steve Martin, writer/actor/comic.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel flirtatious and fun-loving. For that reason, make sure you schedule some social time for yourself. Enjoy a movie, catch some sports or see a friend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have good ideas about how to make where you live look more attractive. Do what you can; however, do not purchase items for the home today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your busy pace keeps you on the run now. Make sure you do not make major purchases or important decisions today. (Things are a bit loosey-goosey.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Although this is a creative day, it's a very poor day for financial matters and spending money. Do not agree to anything, and do not sign contracts.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a poor day to shop. Whatever you do or initiate will tend not to fulfill its objective. This means if you buy something, you will hardly use it in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for research and creative activities. However it's a poor day to make commitments, especially with family members. Go slowly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): When dealing with groups today, do not agree to deadlines or specific goals. Feel free to discuss matters, but wait until tomorrow to make any firm decisions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Others are ready to listen to you because you're in a very strong position in your job. It's vital to know that this is not the day to make important decisions. Just kick ideas around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're keen to travel or get more involved in publishing, the media and dealing with foreign countries. Although it's good timing for these things, don't make decisions about them today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You are focused on red-tape matters like debt, insurance issues, loans, wills and inheritances. Just make sure that you do not sign any contracts or important papers today.

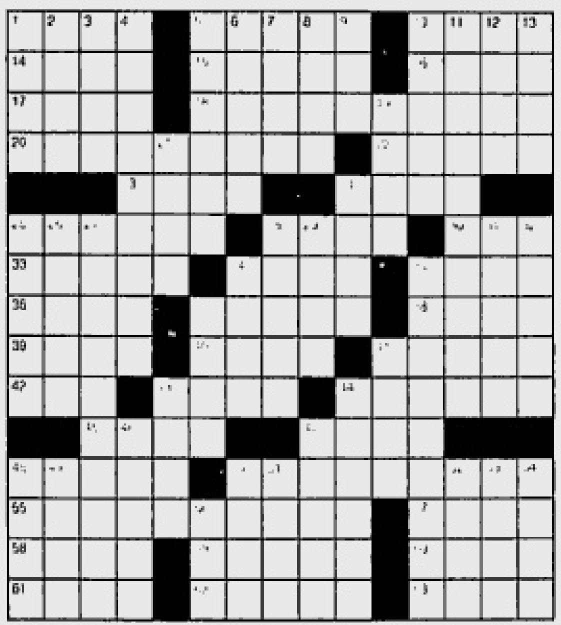
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with partners are important right now. This is a good day to freely express yourself—but do not agree to anything.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Continue to work hard to get organized both at work and at home. If you have to buy items to help you accomplish these tasks, wait until tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Placid
5 Work stint
10 Pronto acronym
14 Redolence
15 Teach
16 God of Memphis
17 Art __
18 Arthur Godfrey
20 Each line of this puzzle's theme
22 Operatic prima donnas
23 Golfers' gadgets
24 Created
25 Oval nut
28 Hee-haw
30 Troy, NY sch.
33 Pointed remarks
34 Hoodwink
35 Parakeet staple
36 Take cover
37 Alphonse Capone
38 Used to be
39 Lulu
40 Maugham story
41 Imparts
42 "Losing My Religion" group
43 Merit
44 Accompany to the door
45 Had debts
47 Main point
48 Followed a trajectory
50 Oscar de la Hoya
55 William Shakespeare
57 Facility
58 Outcropping
59 Desert plant
60 Window part
61 Cloy
62 Chicago mayoral family
63 Way station

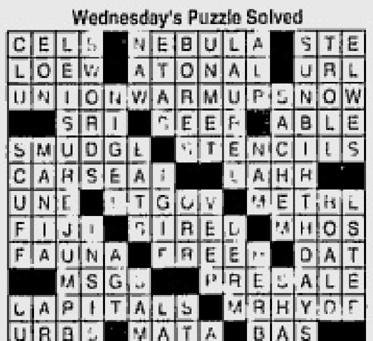
DOWN
1 Closing measure
2 Yemen port
3 Focal points
4 Reggie Jackson
5 Pelted with rocks
6 Luau dances
7 Gossip-column couple
8 Call on the golf course
9 Three in Trieste
10 Garden pest
11 Steve Allen
12 Perfect report card
13 Advanced degs.
19 June 6, 1944
21 Berry and Kesey
24 Shopping center
25 Despise
26 "Mule Train" singer
27 Sam Rayburn
28 Lauren's love
29 Speckled steed
31 "A la Recherche du temps _ "
32 That is: Lat.
34 Decree
35 Walter Payton
37 Nail
41 ___-majesty
43 Renovate
44 Lumet or Poitier
46 Splitting device
47 Gauntlet
48 Basics
49 __ avis
50 Bananas
51 Egg-shaped
52 Lure
53 Norway capital
54 Sharp bark
56 Passing fancy



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

8/14/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



C	E	L	S	■	N	E	B	U	L	A	■	S	T	E
L	O	E	W	■	A	T	O	N	A	L	■	U	R	L
U	N	I	O	N	W	A	R	M	U	P	S	N	O	W
■	■	S	R	I	■	S	E	E	R	■	A	B	L	E
S	M	U	D	G	E	■	S	T	E	N	C	I	L	S
C	A	R	S	E	A	T	■	■	L	A	H	R	■	■
U	N	E	■	L	T	G	O	V	■	M	E	T	H	L
F	I	J	I	■	S	I	R	E	D	■	M	H	O	S
F	A	U	N	A	■	F	R	E	E	[illegible]	■	D	A	T
■	■	M	S	G	S	■	■	P	R	E	S	A	L	E
C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S	■	M	R	H	Y	D	E
U	R	B	S	■	M	A	T	A	■	B	A	S	■	■
Z	O	O	T	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	W	E	T
C	A	L	■	B	E	S	E	T	S	■	T	I	L	E
O	R	Y	■	C	L	O	S	E	S	■	A	M	I	D

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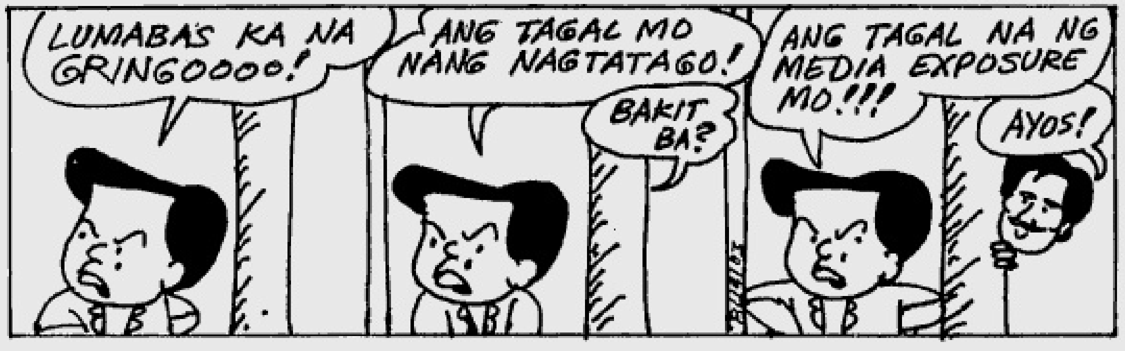
8/14/03

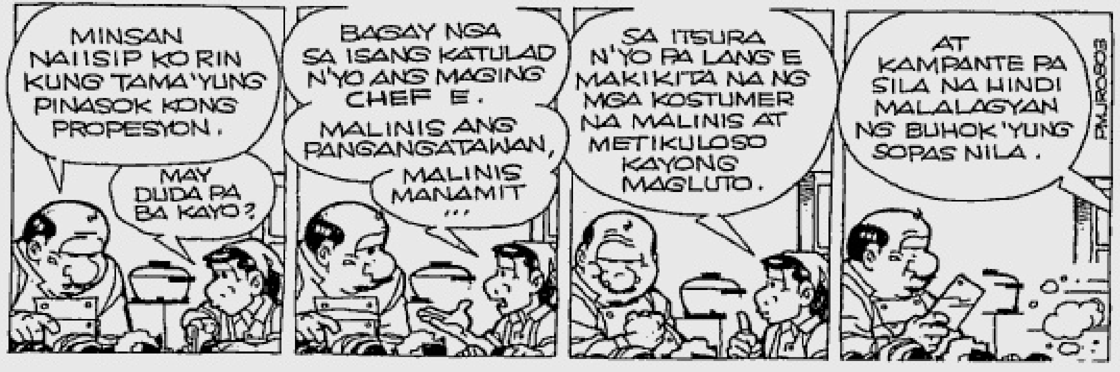
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LUMABAS KA NA GRINGOOOOO!
ANG TAGAL MO NANG NAGTATAGO!
BAKIT BA?
ANG TAGAL NA NG MEDIA EXPOSURE MO!!!
AYOS!

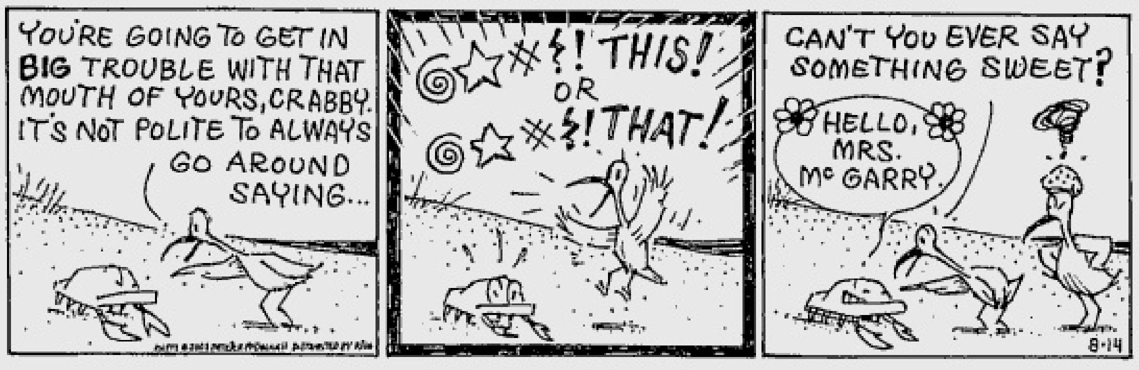
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MINSAN NAIISIP KO RIN KUNG TAMA 'YUNG PINASOK KONG PROPESYON.
MAY DUDA PA BA KAYO?
BAGAY NGA SA ISANG KATULAD N'YO ANG MAGING CHEF E.
MALINIS ANG PANGANGATAWAN,
MALINIS MANAMIT ...
SA ITSURA N'YO PA LANG E MAKIKITA NA NG MGA KOSTUMER NA MALINIS AT METIKULOSO KAYONG MAGLUTO.
AT KAMPANTE PA SILA NA HINDI MALALAGYAN NG BUHOK 'YUNG SOPAS NILA.
PMJR0803

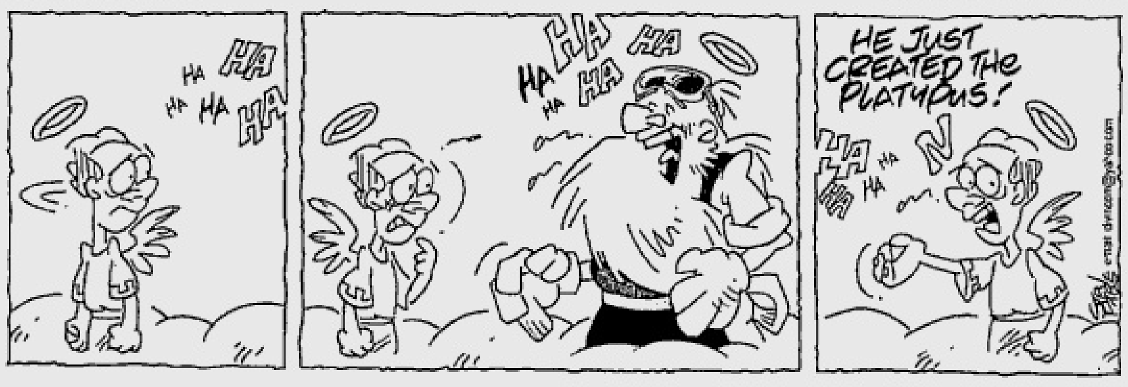
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN BIG TROUBLE WITH THAT MOUTH OF YOURS, CRABBY. IT'S NOT POLITE TO ALWAYS GO AROUND SAYING...
@☆#$! THIS! OR @☆#$! THAT!
CAN'T YOU EVER SAY SOMETHING SWEET?
HELLO, MRS. McGARRY.
8-14

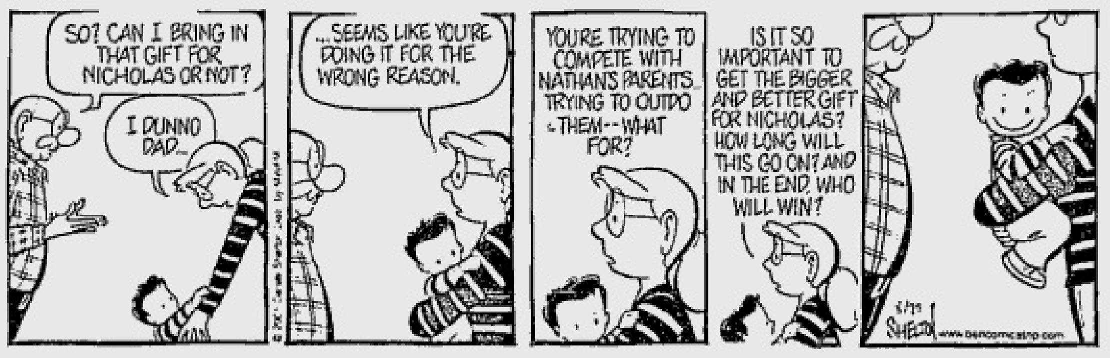
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HE JUST CREATED THE PLATYPUS!
HA HA HA

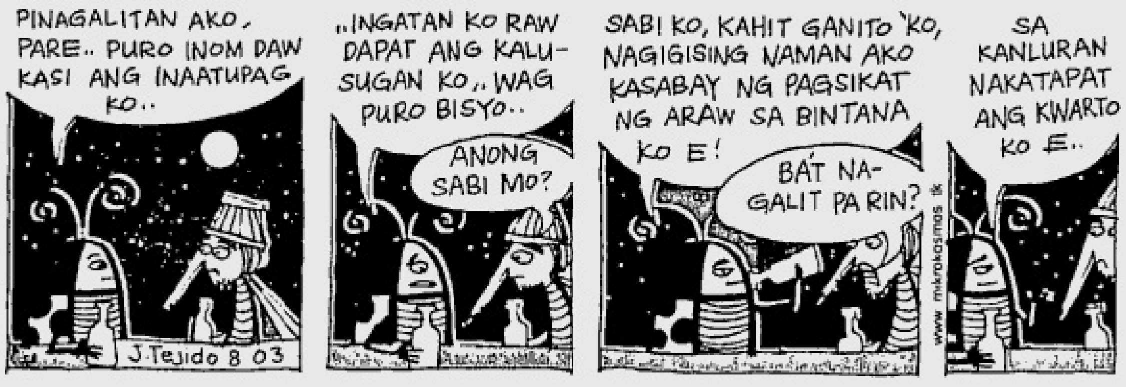
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO? CAN I BRING IN THAT GIFT FOR NICHOLAS OR NOT?
I DUNNO DAD...
...SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DOING IT FOR THE WRONG REASON.
YOU'RE TRYING TO COMPETE WITH NATHAN'S PARENTS... TRYING TO OUTDO THEM--WHAT FOR?
IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO GET THE BIGGER AND BETTER GIFT FOR NICHOLAS? HOW LONG WILL THIS GO ON? AND IN THE END, WHO WILL WIN?
SHELTON
www.bencomicstrip.com

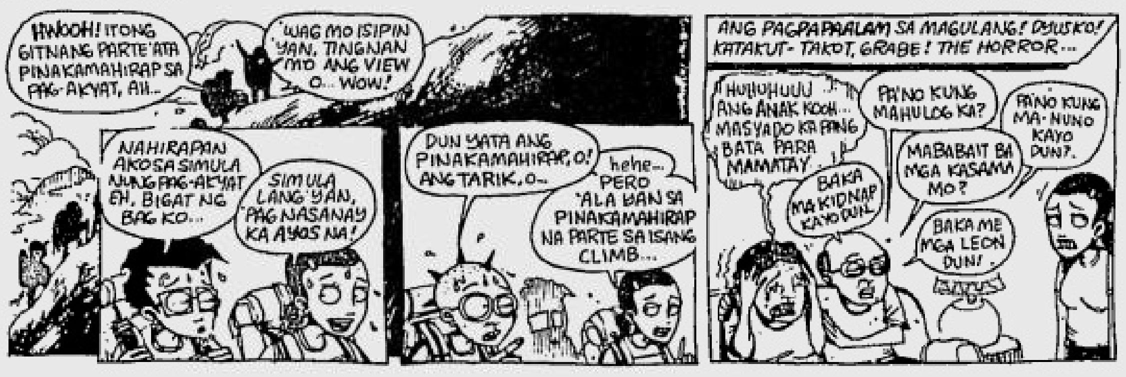
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PINAGALITAN AKO, PARE.. PURO INOM DAW KASI ANG INAATUPAG KO..
..INGATAN KO RAW DAPAT ANG KALUSUGAN KO,. WAG PURO BISYO..
ANONG SABI MO?
SABI KO, KAHIT GANITO 'KO, NAGIGISING NAMAN AKO KASABAY NG PAGSIKAT NG ARAW SA BINTANA KO E!
BAT NAGALIT PA RIN?
SA KANLURAN NAKATAPAT ANG KWARTO KO E..
J.Tejido 8 03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

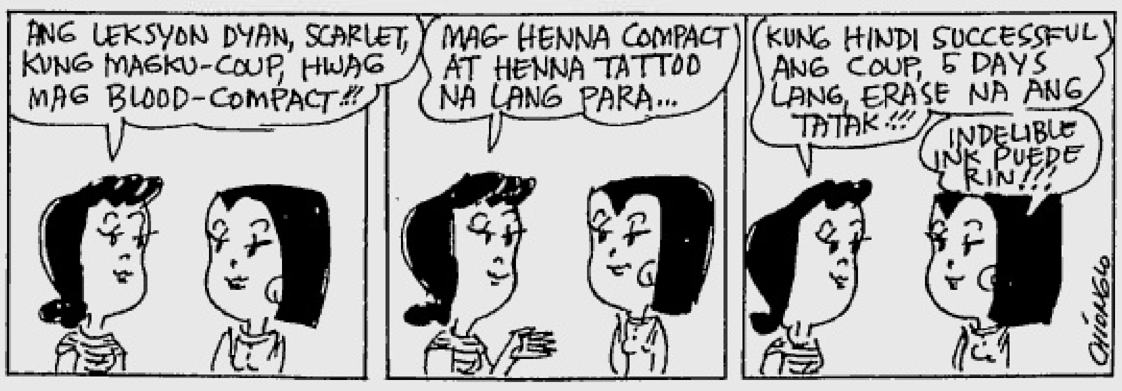
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! ITONG GITNANG PARTE ATA PINAKAMAHIRAP SA PAG-AKYAT, AH...
WAG MO ISIPIN 'YAN. TINGNAN MO ANG VIEW O... WOW!
NAHIRAPAN AKO SA SIMULA NUNG PAG-AKYAT EH. BIGAT NG BAG KO...
SIMULA LANG 'YAN. PAG NASANAY KA AYOS NA!
DUN YATA ANG PINAKAMAHIRAP, O! ANG TARIK, O...
hehe... PERO 'ALA 'YAN SA PINAKAMAHIRAP NA PARTE SA ISANG CLIMB...
ANG PAGPAPAALAM SA MAGULANG! DYUSKO! KATAKUT-TAKOT, GRABE! THE HORROR...
HUHUHUUU ANG ANAK KOOH... MASYADO KA PANG BATA PARA MAMATAY...
PA'NO KUNG MAHULOG KA?
PANO KUNG MA-NUNO KAYO DUN?
BAKA MAKIDNAP KAYO DUN
MABABAIT BA MGA KASAMA MO?
BAKA ME MGA LEON DUN!

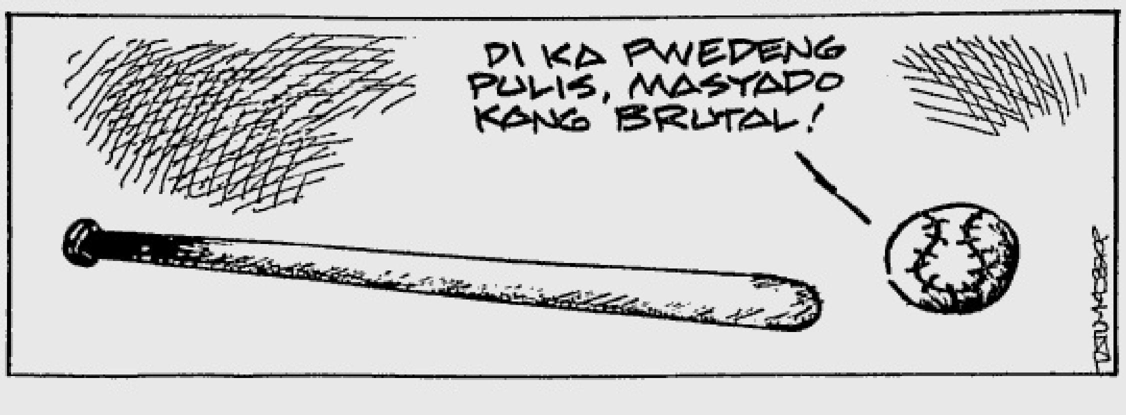
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG LEKSYON DYAN, SCARLET, KUNG MAGKU-COUP, HWAG MAG BLOOD-COMPACT!!!
MAG-HENNA COMPACT AT HENNA TATTOO NA LANG PARA...
KUNG HINDI SUCCESSFUL ANG COUP, 5 DAYS LANG, ERASE NA ANG TATAK!!!
INDELIBLE INK PUEDE RIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

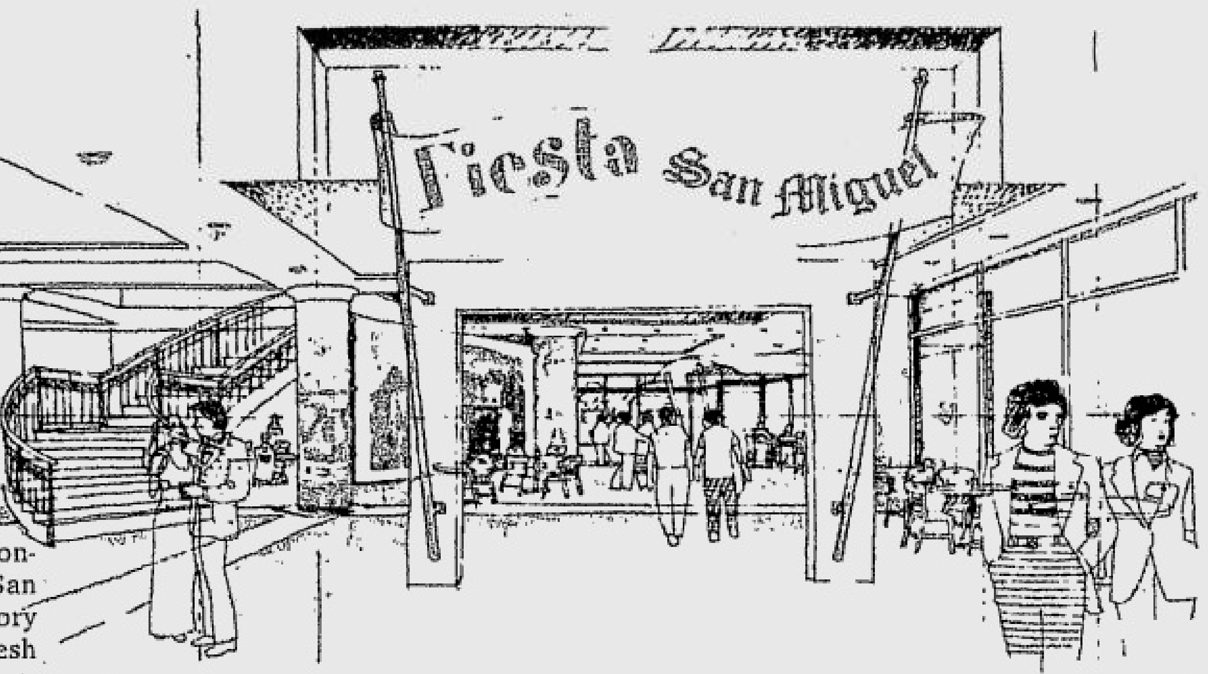

DI KA PWEDENG PULIS, MASYADO KANG BRUTAL!

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Anticipating freshly brewed San Migs at Dusit



THE COUNTDOWN begins for the opening of Fiesta San Miguel, Dusit Hotel Nikko's newest outlet that promises to create a stir in the metropolis. Fiesta San Miguel is the first and only place where freshly brewed San Miguel Beer will be served along with the finest gustatory collection of upscale Filipino and international cuisine.

Dusit Hotel Nikko is proud to have the only micro brewery of its kind around. For San Miguel Corp, this is a first in its history when it can now offer its beer lines as fresh as it comes straight from the brewing kettles.

Fiesta San Miguel is meant to cater to a crowd comprised of diners from different brackets and ages. Within a cozy interior, guests may enjoy a vast expanse with a capacity of more than 100 seats in its ground level designed for fine dining, while its upper level will have a bar with live bands to entertain guests.

The phenomenon that Fiesta San Miguel will create cannot be less than an awesome dimension in the drink and dine scene. It becomes the party place, the entertainment hub and the gourmet haven in Makati. Diners will have a most distinct experience in savoring the freshest beer they can get as well as the exemplary dishes that its master chefs can whip up.

Fiesta San Miguel—the freshest experience not to miss out on—opens on Sept. 5.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

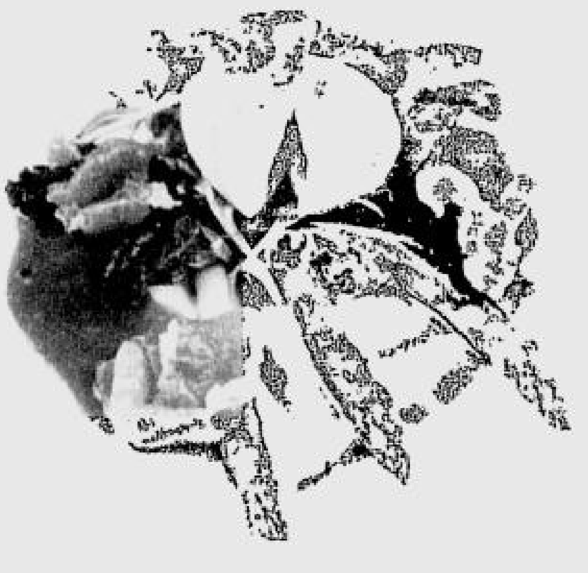
For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Singaporean Hawkers at the Bellevue

THE BELLEVUE Hotel celebrates the thrill and gaiety of Singapore's thrilling epicurean tradition with the Singapore Hawker's Night Festival from Aug. 6 to 24 to be held at the elegant Café D' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant. This festive dinnertime smorgasbord will highlight choice dishes specially prepared by Bellevue's expert chefs.

The wide selections of Singaporean fare are sure to fill everyone's palates and bellies with dozens of tasteful sensations. Favorites such as Hainan Chicken, Beef Rendang, Braised Duck with Mushrooms, Spicy Chili Crab, and a dessert selection with Kuih Dadar or pandan crepe and Palm Sugar with Coconut Jelly are just few of the surprises in store. Added to that, two hawker stands will feature a Satay grill cart and a Laksa cooking station. The special offering is available at dinner for only P590+, a reasonable price for truly authentic cuisine. Plus, a party of four guests taking the smorgasbord entitles one to a free dinner. Experience distinctive tastes and savor the spices of Singapore! For reservations, call 771-8181.

Quick and classy picks at Prince Albert Rotisserie



FOR THE busy executive, InterContinental Manila's Prince Albert Rotisserie offers a new business lunch menu that's fast, affordable yet distinctly fine dine. A different menu is offered each week. These are reasonably priced at P650 per person for a 2-course menu and P800 per person for a 3-course menu exclusive of service and local government taxes. Lunch

suggestions for Aug. 18 to 22 are the following: Shrimp Bisque served with Shiitake Julienne or Pea Soup with Clam Cappuccino for Soups; Tuna Tart with Mushroom and Herbs Salad or Soft-boiled Egg served with Warm Leek in Reduce Meat Jus and Truffle Dressing for

Appetizers; Roasted Gurami Fillet with Mashed White Kidney Bean, Tomato, Lemon and Basil or Pan-fried Breaded Sea Bass with Pepper, Asparagus and Velvet Sauce or Grilled Salmon Steak served with Baby Potatoes, Onion and Bacon Fricassé with Red Wine Butter or Fricassé of Veal Kidney, Mustard Sauce and Rigatoni Gratin or Stuffed Chicken Breast with Herb Butter cooked Cocotte Style with Fricassé of Potatoes, Onion and Bacon or Roasted Beef Tenderloin on a Bed of Onion and Bone Marrow and Crispy Potatoes Raviolis for the Main Course; and Quark Cheese Tart on Peach Sauce with Watermelon Sherbet for Dessert. A choice of freshly brewed coffee or tea comes with the meal.

Prince Albert Rotisserie is open Monday to Friday for lunch and Monday to Saturday for dinner. For reservations, call 815-9711 local 262.

Barceló Asturias Hotel promotes Palawan study tours

PUERTO Princesa is probably the only destination in the country that triumphs in effective environmental management to sustain its tourism growth. By itself, the province's spectacular natural beauty could be regarded, as among the country's treasures that Filipinos should be proud of. Putting this into mind, the "Lakbay Aral sa Palawan" was created to serve as an alternative means to educate the future "shapers" of our society about Puerto Princesa's rich natural heritage. This is in line with Barceló Asturias Hotel's thrust and commitment to promote the province's ideals as an eco-tourism destination.

Priced at only P4,475 net per person (based on triple sharing) and P4,025 net per person (based on quad sharing). This ultimate study tour deal includes room accommodation for four days and three nights, roundtrip airport transfers, a welcome streamer for the students, welcome drink, full board meals, an itinerary that includes a Puerto Princesa Tour, Underground River Tour, and Honda Bay Island Hopping Tour. This limited offer is valid until March 31, 2004.

Barceló Asturias Hotel is the choice hotel while experiencing Puerto Princesa to its fullest. Styled like a Mediterranean villa, it has 60 tastefully furnished rooms that line two floors and are positioned to view a recreational area that features a swimming pool and Jacuzzi amidst a tropical garden.

Barceló Asturias Hotel invites students and members of the academe to explore Puerto Princesa and experience an exciting new way of learning through the "Lakbay Aral sa Palawan" special offer. For inquiries and reservations, call their Manila sales office at (632) 894-4656 and 867-1159. Visit the website at www.barcelo-asia.com.

Cake of the Month

"Montreux Palace Gateau"

Enjoy every bite with this delicious cake from the world's famous hotel in Switzerland, with layers of carrot and hazel nut sponge, coated with flavored butter cream from August 1-31, 2003 only at Waterfront Hotel Mactan

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Angelu out of IBC 13 show for appearing on GMA 7

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I AM overjoyed that "Celebrity DAT com (9:30-10:30 p.m., Thursday, IBC 13)," the show with **TJ Manotoc, Angelu de Leon** and myself, has been renewed for another season.

Considering that we are up against two giants, ABS-CBN's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" and GMA 7's "Magpakailanman," it's quite a feat that we made it through our first season. Of course, we owe it to our sponsors and viewers who gave us a fair chance to provide an alternative program in a time slot dominated by soap operas.

That's the good news. The sad news is that starting today, Angelu will no longer be part of the show because she appeared as a guest on "Magpakailanman" recently. It was management's decision not to renew her contract since she violated the provision which states that we cannot appear on a competing program.

Perhaps it just slipped Angelu's mind because she's quite a busy girl. I asked our executive producer, **Gina Borrinaga**, if they could give her another chance since it was her first offense anyway. Gina said it's beyond her control. The higher-ups have the final say.

It saddens me because TJ, Angelu and I have already established rapport, which is a major factor for any talk show to flourish.

Angelu was out of town at press time, so I was not able to get her side of the story. According to Gina, Angelu's manager **Girlie Buendia** said that, to her knowledge, Angelu didn't commit a breach of contract. I guess it's something that only Angelu herself and IBC-13 management can resolve.

Be that as it may, I'd like to thank Angelu for making work not seem like work at all. TJ and I will surely miss her bubbly laughter and childlike ways.

For now, we will have a guest co-host every Thursday, until we find a suitable replacement for Angelu. **Amy Perez** will join TJ and me tonight.

Hope you catch the show and join us as we welcome a brand new season and give you a closer peek at the thrills and perils in the colorful life of a celebrity. In our show, it's show biz and beyond.

DE LEON has done her last hosting chores on the show biz talk show.

FILE PHOTO

New Miss Earth

I SPENT a delightful afternoon at the Carousel Productions office with my laughing buddy **Raul Teehankee**, my fab "sisters" **Lorraine Schuck** and **Peachy Sacasas**, Manila Bulletin gem **Amiel Cabanlig**, gorgeous **Paolo Relucio**, and the new Miss Earth, Miss Kenya **Winfred Omwakwe**, or Winnie.

She was formally crowned after the dethronement of **Dzejla Glavovic** of Bosnia and Herzegovenia as Miss Earth 2002 for her violations of the organization's rules and regulations and for her failure to perform the duties required of the title.

Winnie is 21 years old and stands 5-foot-9. She has a certificate in physiotherapy from the Institute of Health Care and Management in Kenya. She's a stunning African beauty from Nairobi who reminds you of supermodel **Iman**, but I must say that Winnie stands out more than Iman. Winnie's beauty grows on you, plus she's not just a pretty face.

She's excited about staying in Manila for three months and touring the country to promote ecological and environmental awareness.

She is open to the idea of falling for Pinoy men, and I'm sure there's a queue of men out there dying to give her heaven and earth.

Still loving JV

JV Ejercito's ex-girlfriend, beauty queen **April Ross Perez**, admits that she still loves JV but they had to part ways because he has other priorities and she does not want to get in the way. Sometimes the best way we can show our support for a loved one is by giving them the time and space they need even if that means we have to deprive ourselves of the joy of being with them.

Misty-eyed, she said, "We remain friends. I only have kind words to say about him."

When I asked if there's a possibility that they would reconcile, she just bowed her head in silence. The hardest part about letting go is knowing that it's over, yet not feeling that it's really the end of the line.

JV's other ex, **Patty Betita**, the mother of his lovechild **Emilio**, is back in town after a hiatus in the US. Patty and I used to e-mail each other a lot but I still have to rekindle ties with her to find out the latest score between JV and her. The last time we were in touch, there was no trace of bitterness in her and she was happy that JV was fulfilling his fatherly duties to their son despite their long-distance set-up.

April swears that it's mere coincidence that she and JV split up now that Patty is back. Knowing Patty, the JV episode in her life is finished. And whatever link they have is just centered on their love child Mio.

The Belo way

THE PREVAILING question that runs through the viewers' minds when they see a celebrity trim down is whether she or didn't she pay Dr. **Vicky Belo** a visit.

Dr. Vicky is undoubtedly the ultimate beauty secret of the stars. The good thing about her, though, is that over and beyond the doctor-patient relationship, a close friendship (which is more than just skin deep) develops. I should know. I'm part of the ever-growing Obagi skin care family of the Belo Medical Group.

Dr. Vicky would like to announce that the Philippine Society of Liposuction Surgery will hold its first postgraduate course, and a hands-on operating room experience on Sept. 20-21 at Edsa Shangri-la.

Please call 819-2966 for more details.

Now the mystery behind the much talked-about lipo the Vicky Belo way shall be revealed!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaith-band.com

Nancy's first love

CASTIGLIONE all ready

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

VIEWERS know Nancy Castiglione as a TV-film actress and commercial model, so some of them were surprised when it was announced that the *balikbayan* talent from Canada was going to play the title role in the musical, "Song of Mulan," which is being performed in various malls in different parts of the country.

Fact is, however, musical theater is Nancy's first love, and something she's been training for. She has loved musicals ever since she was a kid, and used to do school plays and other shows at Rainbow Stage, a community theater group in Winnipeg, Canada, where she grew up.

Later, she even played one of the bar girls in the Canadian production of "Miss Saigon."

To make sure that she would do well as a stage performer, Nancy trained in classical and musical theater in Canada for 11 years. Thus, doing "Song of Mulan" is a lark for the young singer-actress.

What she did have problems with was having to do the fight scenes in the show. The musical is based on the old Chinese legend about a girl who disguises herself as a man so she can take the place of her father in combat. Therefore, Nancy's character has to look proficient in Chinese fighting styles, something that she really had to work at.

She had to take lessons from **Mr. Soon** of the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Federation, who taught her how to execute the high kicks and other precise moves required.

Nancy's co-star in "Song of Mulan" is **Greg Turvey**. This is Greg's first musical, so he's had some catching up to do. But the hope is that, as he keeps playing the role of Captain Shang in the show, he'll get to like performing in musicals, so he can add singing to his repertoire of performing skills.

Feedback

OUR recent piece on **Nora Aunor** has elicited a number of reactions: A veteran movie producer says that Nora's movie wasn't included in this year's Metro filmfest because she's no longer a bankable star. In the past 10 years, her movies have generally done poorly.

But her anniversary concert and her "Bituin" TV soap did well, so how could she be a has-been? The producer admitted that those projects were indeed supported by Nora's fans, but her movies were a different case.

We asked if it was a question of the wrong film material for Nora. The producer agreed, saying that moviegoers had had enough of Nora's *pa-awa* character and *pa*-arty-arty movie projects.

So, if Nora is given a good, dynamic script, could she still stage a comeback in films? The producer ended up saying yes. Well, at least we ended our conversation on a hopeful note!

Another caller thanked us for being so "supportive" of his idol, Nora, even at this low period in her film career. He vowed to support her new film, and said he would urge other Noranians to do the same.

A third caller had another take on the situation: He believed that Nora had developed too many bad habits, and she has to get rid of them first before her career can prosper again.

What do you think?

MTV awardees

WARNER Music Philippines congratulates its artists, **Nina** and **Kamikazee**, for the MTV Pilipinas Awards they won recently.

Nina copped the Best New Artist award. Her debut album "Heaven" has turned gold, and she's chalked up hit songs like "Jealous," "Foolish Heart" and "Loving You."

The "soul siren" is also releasing a repackaged album, "Nina Special Edition," with additional tracks like the acoustic versions of "Jealous," "Heaven," "Talk to Me" and "Simula."

For its part, the punk-rock band Kamikazee took home the Best Video award for the video of its single, "Lucky." The song is a parody of **Britney Spears**' hit and its music video has the band members playing wacky superheroes.

The group's self-titled album is doing well.

Avril, Christina, Mandy all in one Heart

SHOW STOPPER

By Gerrilyn Cadiz
Contributor

"I AM not a diva. I am just a singer."

So said young star and MYX VJ Heart Evangelista during the recent launch of her self-titled debut album from Star Records.

The 10-track CD album features a combination of original compositions and revivals that include the Jose Mari Chan classic "Please Be Careful with My Heart" and the catchy "Love Has Come My Way."

Heart came to the launch dressed up in an ensemble that looked like a cross between gothic punk Avril Lavigne and the sophisticatedly chic Jennifer Love Hewitt.

To introduce her album, she first sang a cover of Hewitt's "Barenaked." Then she did four songs from her album: "To Be With You," a Mr. Big original; "Wag Na Lang," "One" and "Love Has Come My Way," all with a live band.

"My musical influences are Avril Lavigne, Christina Aguilera, and Mandy Moore," said Heart after her performance. But she did admit that of the three, her music tends to be more like Mandy Moore's.

Star Records' Annabel Regalado said the album took three months to finish.

"Heart has got a very hectic schedule," said Regalado. "We had to squeeze the recording sessions in between tapings and other assignments."

"I've always loved singing," Heart said. "It has been my dream to record an album. I am on cloud nine now that this has finally happened."

The 18-year-old has been gearing up for the big day since she was five by taking up voice lessons at Ryan Cayabyab's Center for Pop Music Philippines.

Heart described her album as "very pop, young and hip." She also did collaborations with the rap group Gloc 9 for "Sulat" and recorded "Please Be Careful With My Heart" with his loveteam partner John Prats. The song will be used as the theme of Heart's yet-to-be-titled new movie.

When asked what song in the album she would dedicate to John, she quickly replied, "One."

She will be out of the country for two weeks to recharge.

"But I will be back soon because I'm set to do a series of mall shows to promote my album," she said.

Heart said she hopes her fans would enjoy the album as much as she enjoyed doing it.

EVANGELISTA

Acoustic, band music at Streetlife Remix

SHOW TIME

HOMEGROWN music fills Streetlife Remix from top local acts_Bimbo Cerrudo, True Faith, Moonstar 88, Jimmy Bondoc, Nyoy Volante and Mannos and Passage this August.

Jimmy, Nyoy and his Mannos, and Passage band are bring their soothing sounds to Streetlife Remix Aug. 19.

Bimbo and Onda Latina perform on Aug. 26.

Moonstar 88 and True Faith spark Rockin' Saturdays, Aug. 16 and 30, respectively.

Promising rock act Seven Foot Jr. joins True Faith in the month-ender. Stonefree and New Level team up on Aug. 23.

Streetlife Remix regular trio Silk performs on Aug. 25.

Ladies' Night Wednesdays feature Freshmen, and Men's Night Thursdays have Fat Session and ROB.

Fridays have the loud combo of MOG and Big Nite Out ushering the weekend.

For more on Streetlife performers, check out StreetlifeRemix@Planetgimmick.com.

Jay plays himself in 'Jay Manalo Story'

REEL MEETS real as Manalo reenacts his life in "Maalaala Mo Kaya," hosted by Charo Santos-Concio

PEOPLE know him as a playboy. They know about his eight children, his scandal-plagued relationships with popular women, his tattoos, and why, in his launching movie, he was known as "Totoy Mola."

Tonight, "Maalala Mo Kaya" on ABS-CBN tries to get to the truth about the man in "The Jay Manalo Story."

Jay the actor plays himself in the episode, helmed by celebrated director Jeffrey Jeturian and written by Dang Sulit.

As a child, Jay was abandoned, first by his Vietnamese mother and then by his father who left the country in search of work. Neglect by his grandmother caused him to stray from her house at the age of 7. He lived in the streets, until a kindly couple adopted him.

Jay recently won best actor awards from the Urian for the Erik Matti film "Prosti," and the Manila Film Festival for Joel Lamangan's "Ang Huling Birhen sa Lupa."

Jay is joined in this week's episode by Mickey Ferriols, Luz Fernandez, Cris Villanueva, Anna Capri, Michelle Bayle, Jennifer Ilustre, Susan Africa, and child actor Jiro Manio as the young Jay Manalo.

DID YOU KNOW...

ABS-CBN's "Pipol" host Ces Oreña-Drilon took her four sons to the special advance screening of Disney Pictures' latest box office smash animation, "Finding Nemo," at the Alabang Town Center last Saturday morning. Ces, who is from Quezon City, made the trip all the way to Alabang to accompany her kids to the 10:30 a.m. screening. The television host was not wearing any makeup.

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Aug. 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 17 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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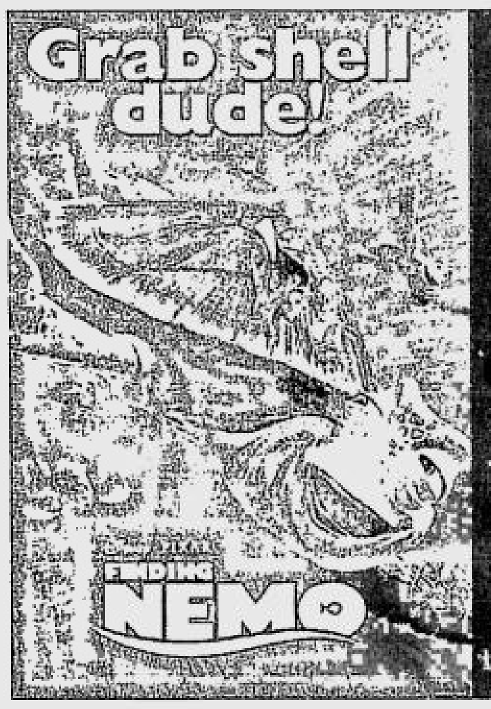

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+ There will be 17 winners per area (the areas being Metro Manila/Rizal, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) for a total of 85 winners. Each winner will receive 17 VCDs of their choice. A member can only win once.
+ Winners will be notified through registered notice, print ad and posters.
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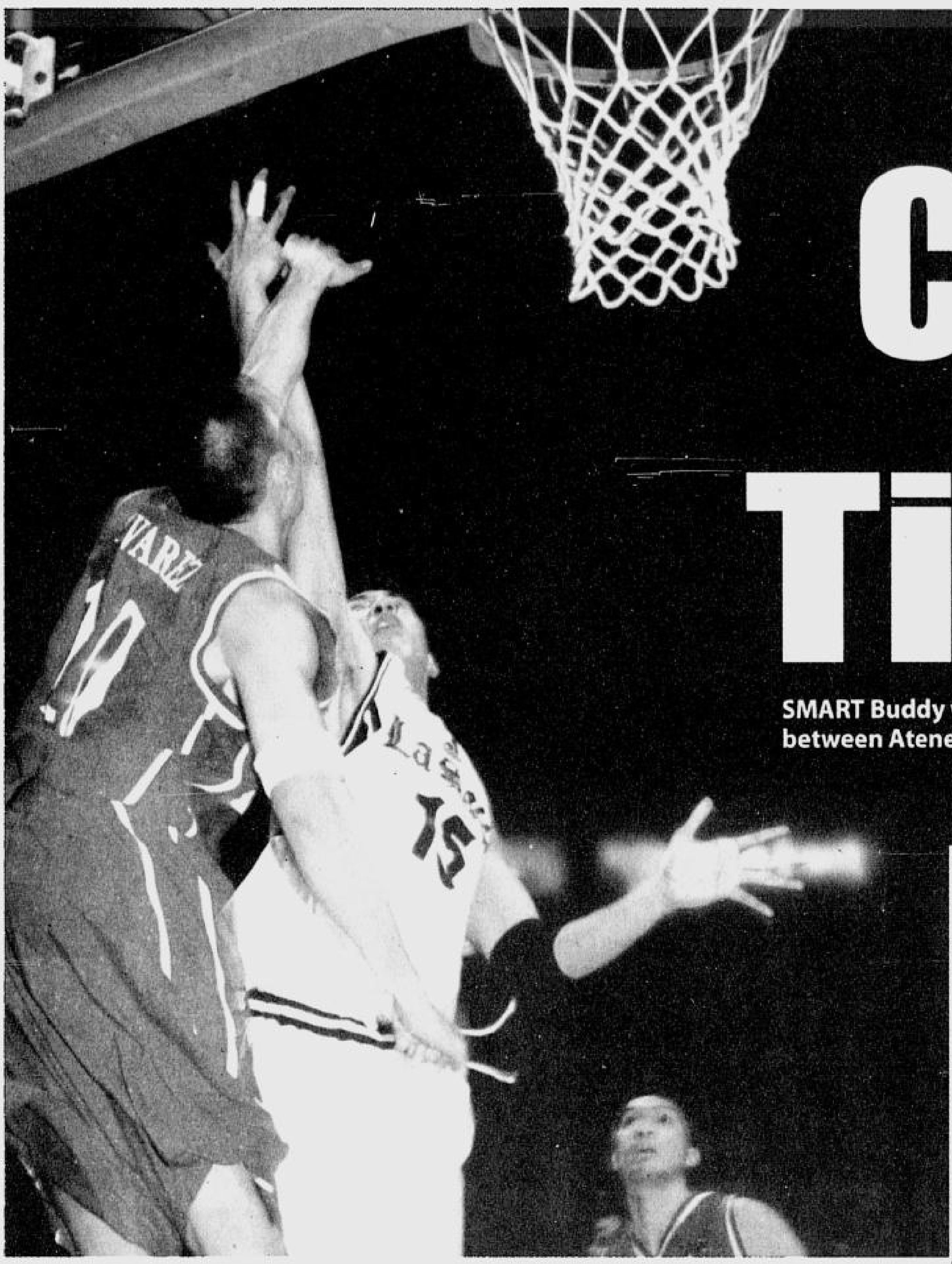


Clash of the Titans

SMART Buddy was in full force at the highly anticipated game between Ateneo and La Salle

Rich Alvarez wins the tap in this jumpball situation

The first thing you might hear would probably be the drums. An incessant banging to a beat almost tribal in nature, calling forth the most rabid of followers to arms. The next would be the screams. As supporters from both camps recite their war cry, the denizens clad in blue or green respond with cheers etched on their hearts. Welcome to another Ateneo-La Salle basketball game.

The most intense rivalry in Philippine sports was revisited once more last Saturday at the historic Araneta Coliseum. As tens of thousands made the pilgrimage to Cubao, the 2002 UAAP Champion Ateneo Blue Eagles prepared for the match-up with the multi-titled De La Salle Green Archers. Without a shadow of a doubt, this is the hottest ticket in basketball today. Amid the deafening roars from the sea of blue and green, placards, streamers, sports blankets, and other paraphernalia were given away for free by SMART for the fans to express their team of choice.

SMART also made its presence felt at this pivotal game through the SMART Buddy SIM Swap booths at both the Red and Green gates of the Big Dome, offering FREE SIM swaps to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, the most powerful SIM to date from SMART. It allows you to store up to 500 phone book entries and 70 text messages, plus gives you access to the hottest stars via STAR TXT, cool logos and ringtones, Pick of the Week, SMART Cinema Club and other services exclusive to SMART Buddy users. Plus, each SIM Swapper got an exclusive premium item from SMART.

Bannered by veterans like two-time Most Valuable Player Rich Alvarez, all-around swingman Wesley Gonzales, daredevil playmaker L.A. Tenorio, and sweet shooting Larry Fonacier, the Eagles were looking for their fifth straight win after two tournament-opening losses. La Salle on the other hand, was gunning for a share of the lead in the 66th UAAP Season. Leadership of the Archers has been placed on the shoulders of "Captain Hook" Mac Cardona, "The Ninja" Joseph Yeo, and diminutive yet scrappy TY Tang.

Anticipation was particularly high for this August 9 meeting, as it was the first time the rivals would meet since Ateneo beat La Salle in an epic three- game series in last year's UAAP Finals. Questions were on everyone's mind entering the match. Which team would be handicapped more after the departure of their stars (Ateneo's Rico Villanueva and La Salle's Mike Cortez)? After sitting out the last game due to disciplinary reasons, would Mac Cardona suit up for the Archers? Could the Blue Eagles prove that last year's title was more than just a fluke? With eight rookies in their line-up, could La Salle pull the rug from under their adversaries from Katipunan? True enough, both teams rose to meet the challenge of the other with gusto.

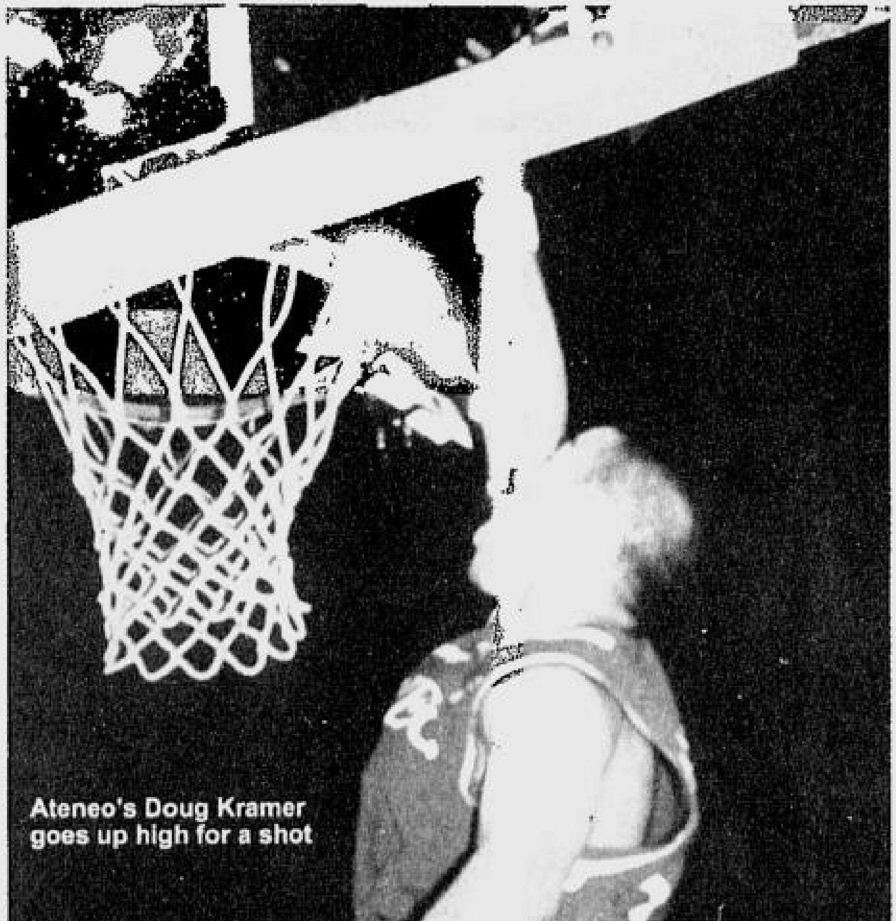
After seizing the early lead behind Yeo and fifth-year starter Manny Ramos, the Archers couldn't capitalize when the Eagles went on a wild scoring binge. Making fifteen out of sixteen free throws in the first half, and with all guns blazing, Ateneo entered the intermission with a commanding lead. Gonzales, Fonacier, Tenorio, and center Paolo Bugia maintained their hot streak in the second half, as the Eagles lead swelled to an unbelievable 25 points. But in typical Green Archer fashion, the ballers from Taft Avenue mounted a fierce rally. Eventually cutting the lead to just ten points behind Yeo's hot perimeter shooting and Cardona's drives to the middle, things seemed to be falling La Salle's way. But it was not meant to be.

Displaying the poise and experience that only a champion can possess, the Hail Mary team raised the lead back to 17 points as Fonacier hit a big triple and Bugia shot a jumper. When the cheering had ended and each school's alma mater hymns had been sung, the result had a convincing ring: Ateneo 82; La Salle 68.

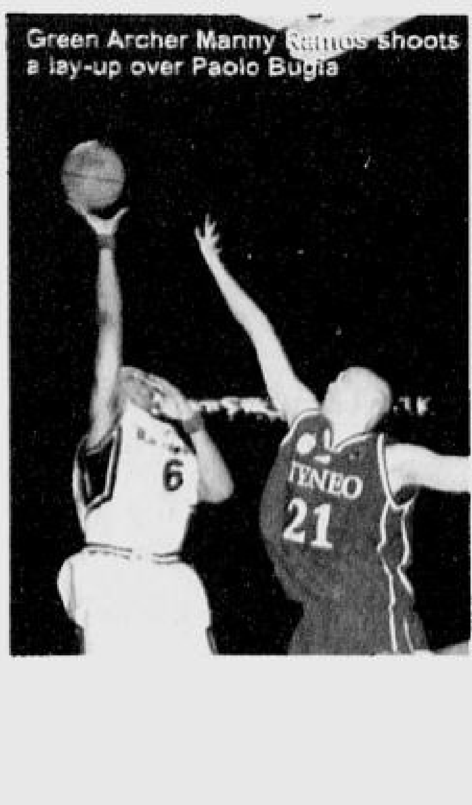
Thus, the latest chapter in this enduring rivalry has been written. In a year where Ateneo played like the defending champions that they are, and La Salle showed the nervousness that having eight rookies in their roster can bring, the result was a clear Blue Eagle victory. Even as the Ateneo faithful marched out of the Araneta Coliseum with smiles on their faces, they knew one thing was certain: La Salle would be ready and waiting in round two of the UAAP season. So watch out for even more surprises from SMART in the coming UAAP games!

PLDT Chief Manny Pangilinan (2nd from right) joins the cheers of the Blue Eagle gallery

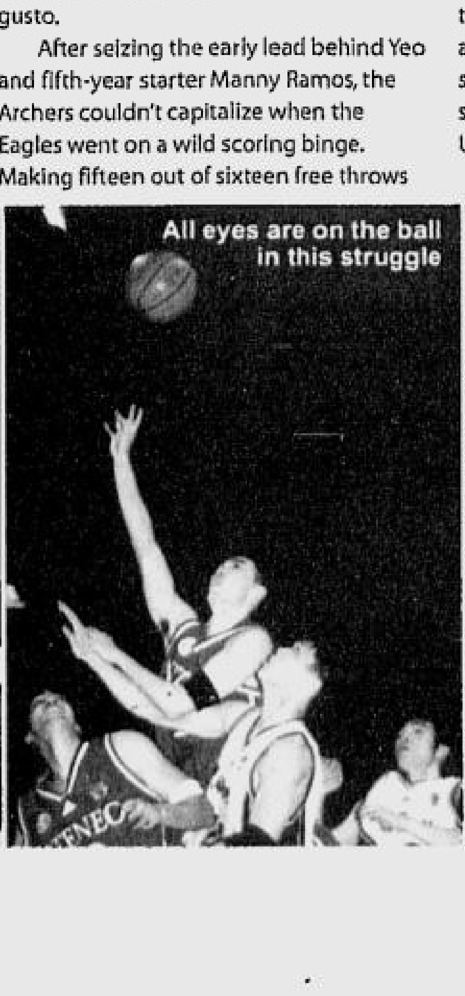
The De La Salle faithful cheer on the Archers



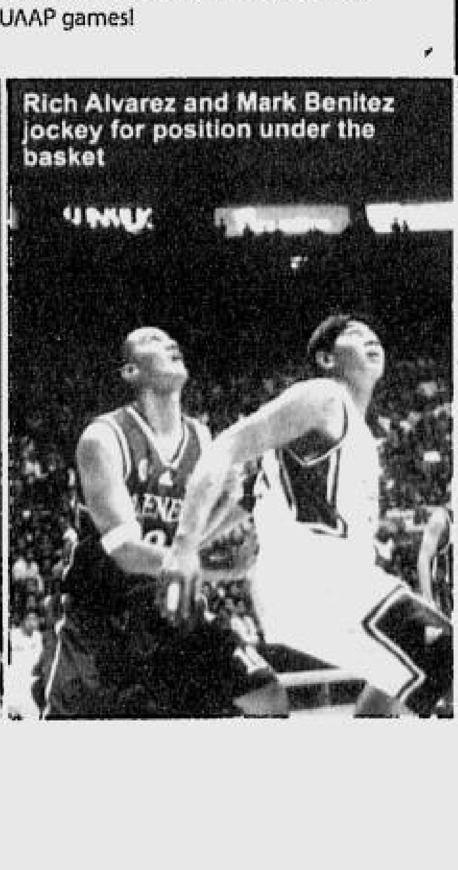
Ateneo's Doug Kramer goes up high for a shot



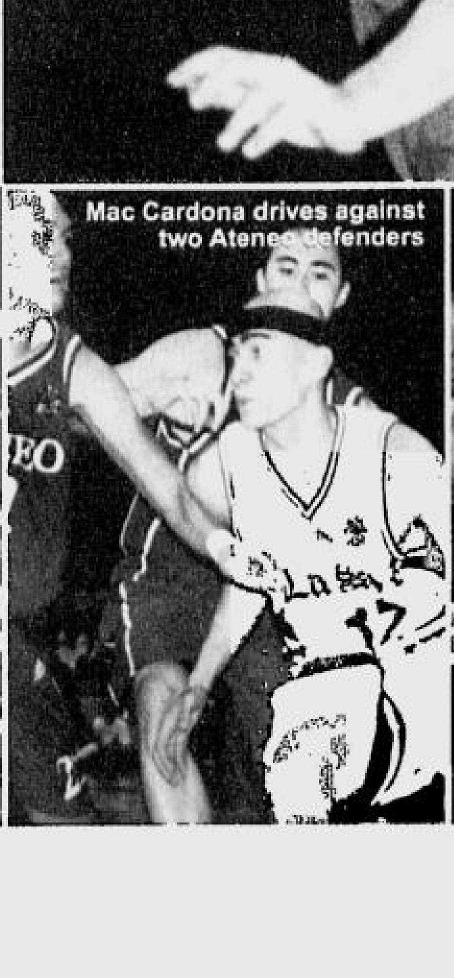
Green Archer Manny Ramos shoots a lay-up over Paolo Bugia



All eyes are on the ball in this struggle



Rich Alvarez and Mark Benitez jockey for position under the basket



Mac Cardona drives against two Ateneo defenders

La Salle's [illegible] goes for an [illegible] stab

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Peso recovers; traders see 55.20 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

WEAK for most of the day, the peso recovered surprisingly before the market closed for trading and ended stronger at 54.83 to $1, making it the best-performing currency in the region yesterday.

As major banknotes like the Japanese yen sustained their decline, the peso rallied toward the closing period as investors took profit gained from the peso's decline in the past week.

Only the local currency, which recovered 0.12 percent of the value lost on Tuesday when it closed at 54.89 to $1, and the Sri Lankan rupee gained among regional currencies yesterday.

The Thai bath was flat while the yen lost 0.4 percent. The Australian dollar was the biggest loser in the region.

Traders, however, said the market would continue to test the P55:$1 level on rumors that the central bank was in a weak position to defend the local currency due to its declining level of external reserves.

"The market is looking at P55.20 (to a dollar) in the coming days ... unless we get some solid good news on the local front that would improve sentiment," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

The peso opened weak at 54.90 to $1, sliding to 54.945 until it started to recover at about 3 p.m. Volume at the Philippine Dealing System was a measly $57 million, indicating the absence of the central bank compared to Tuesday when the turnover reached $143.1 million.

The central bank was reported to have sold $15 million last Tuesday but Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr, denied that the BSP sold dollars to keep the peso afloat.

Tetangco said importers building up their inventory toward the Christmas season had been scrambling for dollars. He pointed out that some banks and exporters have been taking advantage of the rate to sell their greenbacks.

"The market is obviously testing the P55:$1 level and trying to see whether the BSP would defend the peso given its weak reserves," said a local trader. The central bank had said that it would borrow $500 million in September to beef up the country's dollar reserves following the weak inflow from direct investments.

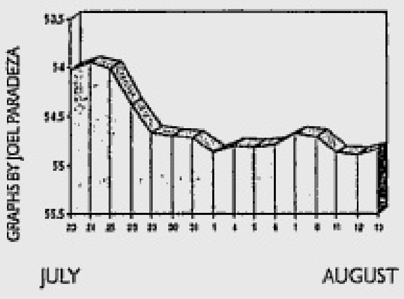
The peso had been week since the middle of July when rumors of a mutiny started circulating in the market. It started gaining ground last week but became volatile again in the last two days.

The central bank assured that the peso weakness was temporary and caused by legitimate dollar demand from importers, companies with maturing obligations and banks short on the greenback.

Demand for dollars is usually high at this time as businessmen build up their inventories for the seasonally high Christmas demand.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.83 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2003

¥ 119.08 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 13, 2003

GOLD: $357.00-357.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 13, 2003

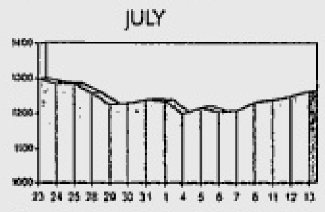
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.17% higher

SHARE prices closed 1.17 percent higher yesterday on the back of gains on Wall Street, but potential for further gains could be limited by lingering security and political concerns, brokers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 14.57 points at 1,262.50.

Volume turnover fell to 256.22 million shares worth P312.51 million from 469.07 million shares worth P344.58 million on Tuesday.

Gainers beat losers 51 to 9, with 41 stocks unchanged.

"The local market has taken its cue from Wall Street. An improvement in the US economy should be beneficial for the Philippines and some foreign investors are still taking their chance on the local market," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.. *AFP*

PNB taps Ernst & Young

PHILIPPINE National Bank, the country's fifth largest lender, yesterday announced it has appointed Ernst & Young Asia Pacific Financial Solutions LLC as its financial adviser in the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for P75 billion in non-performing loans and acquired assets.

Under the engagement, Ernst & Young would assist PNB in the segmentation of the universal bank's portfolio of non-performing assets (NPLs and acquired assets) so that appropriate disposition strategies may be adopted for each asset category.

RP, Thailand take different tack after '97 crisis

ANALYSIS

IF CURRENCIES tend to reflect a country's fortunes, Thailand must be enjoying what it sees in the mirror a lot more than the Philippines.

Six years after they were ravaged by Asia's financial crisis, the two economies and their currencies are a study in contrasts.

Thailand is enjoying robust growth that is the envy of its neighbors, while the Philippines is pre-occupied with the fallout of a failed military rebellion and is struggling to raise its economic game.

"Philippine rough-and-tumble politics have scared off investors. Many turn to Thailand, which is more stable politically and where the government manages the economy better," said Somphob Manarangsan at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

Currency markets have delivered a similar verdict.

The Thai baht finished 1998 at 36.69 per dollar, while the peso traded at 39.06. Today, one dollar fetches around 41.80 baht while the peso rate of 54.90 is uncomfortably close to the currency's all-time low of 55.75 plumbed in January 2001 when former president Joseph Estrada was ousted from office.

So far this year the baht has gained 3 percent against the dollar, while the peso has retreated about 2.7 percent.

"The currency is a correct reflection of the economies of the two countries," Mario Lamberte, president of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, told Reuters. "It's so simple—just look at all the indicators: you have quite a strong Thailand relative to the Philippines."

The stock market tells the same tale. Philippine shares have done well, climbing 22.5 percent so far this year. Thai stocks have done much better, jumping 44 percent to a four-year high.

Fueled by strong exports and pent-up domestic demand, Thailand is expected to outperform most major Asian economies this year.

Analysts expect Thailand's gross domestic product to expand by around 5 percent in 2003, at least one percentage point higher than growth forecasts for the Philippines.

Last month, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra declared "independence" from the International Monetary Fund after repaying billions of dollars in loans ahead of a 2004 deadline.

"From now on we will stand on our own legs, and my government will make our economic growth strong and stable," Thaksin said.

Thailand had sought the IMF's help in 1997 after exhausting the country's reserves in defending the baht, a losing battle that triggered a region-wide financial and

RP/B2

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Man does not leave hybrid alone

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

LIKE any ordinary guy who is trying to do good for the country, our food and farm guy, Agriculture Secretary Sito Lorenzo, can always use an extra P700 million or so each year.

That, actually, is his department's miniscule annual budget for a daring tough program. It simply aims to feed all 80 million plus of us in the years to come.

Sito is attempting to breed. Oops, I mean, he wants to propagate his seed. What I am trying to say is, Sito is in the mood for doing some siring.

But whatever, it's about this new exciting thing called hybrid rice. In China, they have the so-called FATHER of hybrid rice. I pray that Sito also becomes such a father.

Now an old man, that FATHER in China is said to be responsible for that country's phenomenal success in hybrid rice production.

From a famine-stricken nation in the 1960s, China now has a stock of rice for one year for some 1.2 billion people. Really, rice is coming out of their ears.

* * *

HERE, we have millions of rice farmers. We devote a good part of our arable land to rice farming—more than 4 million hectares.

Yet, ever since I can remember, except a few years during the Marcos dictatorship, we still import rice. Okay, we also smuggle it.

Because of the popularity of rice smuggling, a military unit can even harass legitimate importers, apparently with the blessing from somebody in Malacañang.

Our man in agri does not want to leave the hybrid rice program alone to chance. To him the program must become a surefire thing or else...

Well, we simply die with our eyes open. Hungry, in short. The way I get it from Sito, it's because our population continues to race at the speed of light.

At the same time, our farmlands do not increase. On the contrary, our farmlands are becoming condos, country clubs and golf courses.

* * *

LATELY, by the way, the Makati crowd is talking about this strangest of golfing partners.

Seen golfing together is a high-profile woman involved in the Philippine Stock Exchange, and somebody big in Malacañang.

They supposedly play golf at a course south of the metropolis, which is known as the most exclusive course in the country, if not in the entire universe.

Not everybody with money is welcomed to the club. For membership dues, the club simply gets the total cost and divides it among members. That expensive!

* * *

ANYWAY, under attack from some congressmen for the one million jobs in farming supposedly created by this cute administration, Sito makes do with his budget.

He must do magic with the P700 million in yearly allocation for the hybrid rice program, which also covers for irrigation and, well, practically everything.

Short of money, Sito is targeting total area for hybrid rice to reach one million hectares in three years still.

That's the area, more or less, which we need for hybrid rice to produce all the rice we eat. (Sito actually showed me the math. I don't want to bore you to an early siesta.)

The hybrid rice program, therefore, is the cornerstone of our food program. If Sito rises up to the challenge of fatherhood for hybrid rice, we free up a lot of rice lands.

Some three million of them can thus switch to other food items, which also command higher prices, such as vegetables, poultry, and Congress, *este*, pork.

* * *

BASED on Sito's projection, we get enough hectarage for hybrid rice in a few years still. We cannot do it immediately precisely because of the usual budget problem.

Today the agriculture department gets P700 million a year for the program. In the 1970s, the Marcos dictatorship spent P5 billion for a similar rice self-sufficiency scheme.

It was called the Masagana 99 program, giving away loans to farmers, who hardly repaid them, basically because it was viewed as a government dole-out.

In today's peso, that P5 billion could be worth about P100 billion—easily. With this amount, just imagine what Sito can do.

Still, this cute administration of Tita Glo has other priorities such as peace and order. Thus it must set aside more money for weapons and mansions for AFP generals.

Thus Sito is trying to make do with what he has. To mechanize hybrid rice planting, for instance, he taps local governments for funding. Best of luck, man!

* * *

LET'S say that Sito succeeds in the hybrid rice program. He leads farmers to go into other food production. Now he has a big problem.

You see, all their lives, and all the lives of their fathers, and their fathers' fathers, a lot of our farmers knew nothing but rice farming.

Sito is afraid that, in their present mindset, our farmers will find ventures in other foodstuff to be a lot more complicated than rice farming.

He thus wants to reorient the farmers. He wants them to become businessmen. They must learn things like marketing, costing, and tax evasion, *este*, tax *lang pala*.

Today, you can sell the Nagtahan bridge to farmers, but you cannot fool them about their costing. They can figure out if they will make money or not.

As farming becomes a business, they must know what can click. For instance, they must figure out why on earth our kids are crazy over Meteor Garden.

* * *

THERE is still hope for our kids, however, despite the recycled program from Taiwan. Things are changing in agriculture. Food and more food is the only way for us to develop.

And that's why, while no one was looking, even the guys in the Chinese-Filipino community, who traditionally were just into trading, went into agriculture.

Food is still the winning business in this country. San Miguel already proved it. It is the biggest private business here today.

Well, the math is really simple. On the average, we spend more than half of our income on food.

New vehicle tax plan seen getting Congress nod before Sept. 9

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday said it would draft a new revenue regulation that would implement the new provisions of automotive excise taxes in anticipation of a law that may be passed by Congress before Sept. 9.

The passage of the law rationalizing the excise taxation on motor vehicles is expected to reduce the costs of sedans but increase the prices of 10-seater vehicles that are currently exempt from excise taxes.

However, the increase in the prices of 10-seater vehicles should be lower if the law is passed than if these vehicles were subjected to a stricter BIR regulation that would take effect on Sept. 9.

The bicameral committee of Congress agreed Tuesday night to support a common legislation that would shift the basis of excise taxation on automobiles from engine displacement and fuel type to value.

"(The BIR) may have to work out an interim procedure unless there is a consensus that the revenue regulation we had issued that would take effect Sept. 9 should be sufficient," Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said in an interview.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho welcomed the promising results of the bicameral committee last Tuesday.

"Once the restructuring of auto taxes is passed, then we could focus on pushing for other reforms like the indexation of sin taxes, the rationalization of the documentary stamp tax, the imposition of gross receipts tax on financial institutions, among other pending items," he said.

The bicameral committee agreed on the following tax structure: vehicles worth P600,000 and below would pay a 2-percent excise tax; more than P600,000 to P1.1 million would pay P12,000 plus a 20-percent tax on the amount in excess of P600,000; more than P1.1 million to P2.1 million would pay P112,000 plus 40 percent of the amount in excess of P1.1 million, and vehicles worth more than P2.1 million would pay P512,000 plus 60 percent of the amount in excess of P2.1 million.

Currently, nine-seaters are subjected to excise tax rates of 15, 30, 50 and 100 percent depending on engine displacement.

Rep. Jesli Lapus said the tax structure should at least contribute an additional P220 million to the P2.72 billion in automotive excise tax collection annually.

JANUARY-JUNE

ABS-CBN posts P507-M profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. posted a net profit of P507 million in the first half of the year, a turnaround from the restated net loss of P100 million a year ago, on the back of improved advertising revenues.

ABS-CBN chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado yesterday said in a press briefing that the network benefited from the 31-percent rise in total industry minutes during the period from a year ago.

For the second quarter alone, net profits amounted to P399 million, which marked an increase of 271 percent from the first quarter.

Consolidated net revenues reached P6.03 billion, up by 26 percent from last year. Aside from higher advertising sales, revenues were likewise boosted by ABS-CBN Global whose subscribers rose by 30 percent in June to 167,636 worldwide.

Movie outfit ABS-CBN Films likewise contributed to revenue growth, as under the trade name Star Cinema, it earned a lot from "Till There Was You" and "Tanging Ina."

Operating expenses grew by 15 percent.

RP, Thailand . . .

From page B1

economic crisis.

At the end of 1997 Thailand's foreign debt totaled $109.7 billion, a sum it had slashed to $59.5 billion by the end of 2002. Yet over the same period, the Philippines' foreign debt climbed to $53.9 billion from $45.7 billion.

Domestically, too, Thailand can boast a better debt record.

The Philippines has has posted fiscal deficits in nine of the past 13 years. In 2002, the government overshot its planned deficit three times and was forced to extend its target for a balanced budget by another three years to 2009. Government debt is a suffocating 85 percent of GDP.

Thailand went into the crisis with much stronger finances.

It has recorded budget shortfalls since 1997 to prop up the economy, but its government debt is still much lower than its neighbor's at around 56 percent of GDP. And many analysts expect a surplus from 2004, aided by surging tax revenues from a consumption boom.

Like their economies, the political fortunes of Thaksin and Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo, who came to power at the same time in January 2001, could not be more different.

Thaksin, a wealthy telecoms magnate, is expected to easily win reelection in 2005. A poll this week suggested nearly 72 percent of Thais were happy with Thaksin's handling of the economy. His popularity has been helped by a low 1.8 percent jobless rate, compared with 12.2 percent in the Philippines.

"Thaksin looks solid. He has a very good chance of further increasing his majority after the next poll," said professor Somjai Phagaphasvivat of Bangkok's Thammasat University.

"I don't see anything that will disrupt the consolidation of his power. His prospects are improving and the brighter world economic outlook next year is on his side," Somjai said.

By contrast, Ms Macapagal—who quashed a 19-hour mutiny by 321 elite soldiers in Makati two weeks ago—has said she does not plan to run in the next presidential election in May 2004.

Over the past two years, the economist-turned-politician has been forced to dispel coup rumors that, together with fiscal and security problems, have had investors looking to put their money elsewhere.

Ernest Bower, president of the US-Asean Business Council, said the political vacuum in the run-up to the Philippines' election in May next year was likely to delay badly needed economic reforms. *Reuters*

Belle profit down 33.7% in 1st half

By Elena R. Torrijos

PUBLICLY listed property developer and leisure firm Belle Corp. saw profit in the first half of this year drop 33.7 percent to P283.9 million from P428.1 million in the same period last year in the absence of last year's extraordinary gain from the sale of majority interest in Highlands Prime Inc.

In the second quarter of last year, Belle posted about P1.4 billion in interest and other investment income after disposing of Highlands Prime, which was listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange in late April 2002.

Belle said its profit in the first semester of 2003 was largely because of nearly P450 million in gains on the settlement of debt that helped the company wipe out an operating loss for the period.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission the other day, Belle said that sale of real estate and club shares rose 18 percent to P97.5 million in the first semester of this year from P82.7 million last year.

Belle said it expected that sales of its new farm lots project, Plantation Hills at Tagaytay Greenlands, would generate substantial revenue in the second half of this year.

INTEREST RATES

August 13, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 13-Aug-03	MART1 12-Aug-03
1 Month	5.884	5.9333
3 Months	5.9383	5.9717
6 Months	6.9033	6.9394
1 Year	7.9696	7.9661
2 Years	9.3467	9.3033
3 Years	9.925	9.9464
4 Years	10.2518	10.2967
5 Years	10.4867	10.4817
7 Years	11.2429	11.1885
10 Years	11.7214	11.6683
20 Years	11.9964	11.9714
25 Years	12.3429	12.3804

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 13, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	32,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	46.5	47	677,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	35	34	35	70,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31	41,500
Philippine National Bank	25	25.5	25	25.5	21,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	18,500
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	22,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	25.5	24.25	25.5	143,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5 000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1650	1655	1650	1655	1,600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.38	369,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1195	1195	1190	1190	1,460
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	22.75	20.75	22.75	143,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.64	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	665	650	655	18,850
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	4,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	14,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.58	7,860,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	520	510	520	62,830
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	3,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.75	574,800
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	19.25	18.5	19.25	3,069,400
Petron Corporation	2.06	2.08	2.04	2.06	3,580,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0 94	0.94	0 93	0.93	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	326,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2 5	2.5	107,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	250,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	150,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	79,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	159,900
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	53.5	52	53.5	47,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62.5	63	37,900
Universal Robina Corp.	6	6	5.9	6	1,087,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.35	0.24	0.35	590,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.45	0.39	0.43	690,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	1,637,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.037	0.038	8,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	28,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.78	1.66	1.78	205,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	5,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.65	17,420,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	210,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	130,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	600,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	739,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Global Equities,Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.115	0.135	1,910,000
Ionics Inc.	1.52	1.62	1.5	1.58	888,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	129,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	750,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.19	160,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	11,030,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.42	0.38	0.42	4,640,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.34	0.28	0.33	25,220,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	130,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.115	0.115	1,280,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.47	0 47	0.47	0.47	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	24,600
Steniel Manufacturing	0.18	0.2	0 18	0.2	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	1,450,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	100,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0 35	0 35	0 35	0.35	550,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	21	23.25	21	23.25	245,700
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	12,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	2,272,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	210,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	2,170,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	3,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	3,031,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.025	0.05	0.025	0.05	500,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.97	1.08	0.97	1.08	110,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,020,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	3,620,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	11,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	7,493,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.225	2,850,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	1,430,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	600,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	28,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	9,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000

DISCLOSURES

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of Union Cement Corp. approved the sale of the company's shares in Limay Grinding Mill Corp.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. designated Mario Cruz, assistant vice president, as the company's officer in charge. Also, the company bought 30,000 of its own shares at P1.26 per share and another 20,000 shares at P1.24 per share.

* * *

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 4 to Oct. 31, 3 p.m. at Unit 3C of Cypress Gardens Condominium, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 23 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 16, 8 a.m. at the Via Mare Penthouse East Tower, PSE Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

UNIOIL Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Oct. 3, 10 a.m. at the Manila Golf and Country Club. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 22 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

August 13, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.886132	1.000000	54.9260
Japan	Yen	0.007467	0.008427	0.4629
United Kingdom	Pound	1.419495	1.601900	87.9860
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113620	0.128220	7.0426
Switzerland	Franc	0.647474	0.730674	40.1330
Canada	Dollar	0.639945	0.722178	39.6663
Singapore	Dollar	0.505495	0.570451	31.3326
Australia	Dollar	0.582636	0.657505	36.1141
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.350670	2.652731	145.7039
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.236302	0.266667	14.6470
Brunei	Dollar	0.504057	0.568828	31.2434
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000117	0.0064
Thailand	Baht	0.021210	0.023935	1.3147
UAE	Dirham	0.241275	0.272279	14.9552
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.128500	61.9840
Argentina	Peso	0.305037	0.344234	18.9074
Brazil	Real	0.293615	0.331345	18.1995
Denmark	Kroner	0.134658	0.151962	8.3467
India	Rupee	0.019305	0.021786	1.1966
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.233224	0.263193	14.4561
Mexico	New Peso	0.082569	0.093179	5.1179
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520795	0.587717	32.2809
Norway	Kroner	0.121311	0.136900	7.5194
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015397	0.017376	0.9544
South Africa	Rand	0.119931	0.135342	7.4338
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.000849	0.0466
Sweden	Kroner	0.108446	0.122381	6.7219
Syria	Pound	0.021099	0.023810	1.3078
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025857	0.029180	1.6027
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000556	0.000627	0.0344

MORE DOMESTIC DEBT

Net foreign borrowings seen declining to $400M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration said the country's net foreign borrowings next year were expected to decline to as low as $400 million, down from the $1.74 billion budgeted this year, data from the Department of Finance showed.

While a decline in foreign borrowings is seen to ease the pressure on the country's external debt level, the plan of the government to source more of its borrowing requirements from the local market may put added burden on the peso which has recently been showing volatility, according to sources.

The projected net domestic borrowings for 2004 were placed at P120.1 billion, up by P16.8 billion or 16 percent from the P103.3 billion programmed for this year.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government's net financing requirement in 2004 would be down to only P141.3 billion, 28.8 percent or P57.3 billion lower than this year's P198.6 billion.

But the gross financing requirement for next year was estimated at P411.9 billion, higher by 4.67 percent or P18.4 billion from P393.5 billion this year. The amount included P102.6 billion in amortization of foreign obligations and P168.1 billion for the servicing of domestic borrowings.

"The net financing requirement next year should be lower because we also expect a lower deficit. We also have carryover funds classified as change in cash," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The net financing requirement represents the amount that the government needs to borrow to finance a budget deficit of P197.8 billion next year. For this year, the budget deficit ceiling was placed at P202 billion.

Camacho explained that every year, there were "below-the-line" items that needed to be financed but were not included in the net financing requirement because they were not covered by the budget.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza explained that a P2.5-billion cash carryover from this year would help bring down next year's borrowing requirement to P197.8 billion or equivalent to the 2004 deficit target.

"We expect to have a cash carryover of P2.5 billion," said the treasurer. In 2003, the cash carryover was only P200 million.

Exporters oppose further liberalization of trade

LOCAL exporters said they would not support moves in the World Trade Organization to further liberalize trade unless developed countries, such as the United States and members of the European Union, provide developing countries the necessary infrastructure for trade-related activities.

They said that unless rich countries assist developing nations, such as the Philippines, in making available the facilities, equipment and technology needed for trade, the coming WTO ministerial meeting in September, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, would not prosper.

Donald Dee, head of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said it was still very difficult for local exporters to access foreign markets due to lack of infrastructure support. He added that the level playing field, which is one of the principles of globalization, has yet to be felt by businessmen in developing countries.

"In any negotiation, developed countries should—if they will insist on further opening up a developing country like the Philippines—assist in putting in place these so-called infrastructure to level the playing field," Dee said in an interview.

"Infrastructure means the facilities that will simplify import and export procedures, such as computers, X-ray machines and programming which require high startup cost," he added.

Dee said Philexport, with the help of the academe, would be coming up with a position paper that would ask government to raise the sector's concern in the WTO talks.

Dee, who is also president of the Confederation of Garments Exporters of the Philippines (Congep), said the country's garments exports could access less than 2 percent of the global market due to lack of infrastructure.

The country's export revenue from garments amounts to about $3 billion per year.

Dee also asked the government to push for the removal of export subsidies given by rich countries to their agriculture sectors during the WTO meeting. *Michelle V. Remo*

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British firms remain bullish on RP, says envoy

By Michelle V. Remo

BRITISH firms operating in the country have shrugged off the perception of uncertainty in the local business environment brought about by the failed July 27 mutiny, British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Diamond said.

The ambassador said British companies here did not consider the recent political upheaval as a distraction to their businesses.

He added that the bilateral trade relations between the United Kingdom and the Philippines even became more active particularly after a recent meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and British officials. The meeting was aimed at strengthening business ties between the two countries.

"The United Kingdom has a significant number of investors in the Philippines like HSBC (Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp.), Standard Chartered Bank and several others particularly in the retail industry. And we still see a lot of great things happening," said Diamond in a briefing.

According to Manny Silverman of the Philippine-British Business Council, the group is set to meet retailers in the United Kingdom next month to discuss business opportunities in the Philippines.

He said the group would encourage British retailers to do business in the Philippines, either through direct investments or by entering a franchise, joint venture or distributorship.

"We would present to them a portfolio of opportunities, and look for the best possible formula for them," Silverman said.

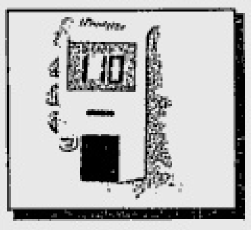
Silverman said the group was seeing the Philippines as a "land of opportunities" for British retailers due to its demographics. He said the country's population of 80 million, 80 percent of which are 45 years old and below, was an indication of its potentials to support the growth of retail firms.

"You have a young, growing, and enthusiastic shopping market that will grow and go through various stages. We can see a great area of opportunity in that," said Silverman.

Silverman also noted that due to the size of the country's population, retail sales in the Philippines continued to expand at an average rate of 3.5 percent, which was better than that of its Asian counterparts.

He added that the young and high-earning consumers, who patronize new brands, are expected to spur growth in the retail sector.

He said the positive performance of existing British retailers in the country could encourage other British retailers to expand their operations offshore and to put up businesses in the Philippines.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Union Cement selling stake in clinker making company

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNION Cement Corp., which is controlled by the Phinma group, is set to sell its stake in Limay Grinding Mill Corp. or LGMC.

LGMC is a clinker grinding company in Bataan whose majority stake was purchased by UCC early this year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, UCC spokesperson Ma. Allen Morallos-Arbis said the UCC's board of directors had approved the sale of the company's shares in LGMC.

No disclosure was made on the possible buyer of LGMC, which was controlled by HeidelbergCement of Germany prior to UCC's takeover.

LGMC has a production capacity of 400,000 tons a year.

However, no reason was given for UCC's decision to sell out of LGMC so soon after the acquisition.

UCC is a fully integrated cement manufacturing operation with plants across the Philippines: two in Mindanao (in Misamis Oriental and Davao City) and two in Luzon (in La Union and Bulacan).

UCC is a member of Holcim—one of the world's leading suppliers of cement as well as aggregates, concrete and construction-related services, with businesses in over 70 countries. Holcim and local majority partner Bacnotan Consolidated Industries own 76 percent of UCC, through a private holding company, UCC Holdings.

In November last year, UCC acquired 98.6 percent of Alsons Cement Corp. through a share-swap agreement with major shareholders and a tender offer for its minorities. With this acquisition, UCC re-established itself as the leading cement company in the country with consolidated assets of P27.8 billion.

Union and Alsons now have a combined annual capacity of about 7.5 million metric tons of cement, the biggest in the Philippines where Holcim, French-British Lafarge and Mexico-based Cemex have come to dominate the industry by acquiring control of most plants at the height of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98.

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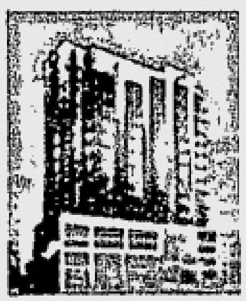
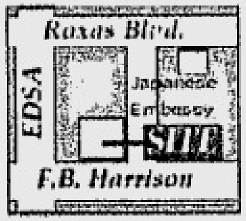

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Napocor to start selling generators

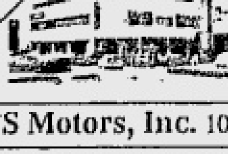
THE PRIVATIZATION of National Power Corp.'s power plants is seen to have picked up tempo with two investors reportedly interested in buying the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal plant in Zambales, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday.

Perez said the sale of the generators was set to start in October with an initial batch of eight facilities.

These are the 310-MW Navotas gas turbine, 110-MW Pinamucan bunker C-fired plant in Batangas, 620-MW Limay combined cycle plant in Bataan, 3.52-MW Talomo hydro plant in Davao and the 1.2-MW Loboc hydro plant in Bohol.

Also included in the first batch is the package combining the 75-MW Ambuklao and 100-MW Binga hydro plants in Benguet.

"We want to push ahead with the sale of as many transmission and generation facilities as possible before June 30, 2004," Perez said. *Ronnel W. Domingo*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2 NOON AT NGAYON
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BAD BOYS 2 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
4 MR. BONES
5 TOMB RAIDER II
6 LXG
7 THE DEBUT

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THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 FINDING NEMO 12:35 2:40 4:45 6:50 8:55 11:00
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3
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6 BULLET PROOF MONK
7 FINDING NEMO

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2 RESERVE

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3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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8 BULLETPROOF MONK
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE IN-LAWS

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9350749
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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9 MR. BONES
10 MOTEL
11 DARK WATER
12 NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY MANILA
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 FINDING NEMO
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 THE DEBUT
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 DARK WATER

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2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 DARK WATER
8 THE DEBUT
9 NOON AT NGAYON
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 THE IN-LAWS
12 TUKAAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 THE DEBUT
4 NOON AT NGAYON
5 FINDING NEMO
6 MR. BONES
7 BAD BOYS 2
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM SOUTHMALL
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1 MR. BONES
2 MY LITTLE EYE
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 MOTEL
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 THE DEBUT

SM CITY CEBU
2313878
1 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
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5 WILD BUTTERFLY
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7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

SM CITY ILOILO
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1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 RESERVED
3 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NOON AT NGAYON
7 RESERVED
8 DANCER IN THE DARK

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4 BAD BOYS 2
5 THE IN-LAWS
6 NOON AT NGAYON

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2 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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4 FINDING NEMO

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2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 BAD BOYS 2

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3 BAD BOYS 2
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6 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 FINDING NEMO
4 BAD BOYS 2

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

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11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4 THE DEBUT 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
5 FINDING NEMO 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30,
6 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
7 BULLET PROOF MONK 10.50, 1.00, 3.10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 MR. BONES 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
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10 TOMB RAIDER 2 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 9:30

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Mon.-Fri. / 10am-4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-717009 TO 13

1 LXG - 10:10, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:00
2 FINDING NEMO - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 THE DEBUT - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
4 THE IN-LAWS - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 MR. BONES - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 NOON AT NGAYON - 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40
7 LXG - 11:20, 1.45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

Metro East Marcos Hway 682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8200

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAODINARY GENTLEMEN
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAODINARY GENTLEMEN
8 THE IN-LAWS

Novaliches 935-3229/31

1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 THE IN-LAWS
5 FINDING NEMO
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
7 MR. BONES
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Malabon 288-0985 288-2575

1 FINDING NEMO
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 THE IN-LAWS

Star Mills (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 SNAKE LADY
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 THE IN-LAWS
4 FINDING NEMO
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Imus (046) 471-8188 (046) 875-5858

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 FINDING NEMO
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 THE GURU

Sta. Rosa (049) 837-09-07

1 NOON AT NGAYON
2 NAKED WEAPONS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SNAKE LADY
5 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Bacolod (034) 441-0458-59

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
6 DEATHWATCH

Iloilo (033) 336-8070/78

1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 NOON AT NGAYON
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 2	NAKED WEAPON
Ali 3	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 4	LXG
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 7	FINDING NEMO

ARANETA-COLISEUM

AUG 16	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 17	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 24	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES/ 2ND ROUND
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY · LEGEND OF [illegible]

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIGLANG LIKO / YOUNG VIRGINS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	MOTEL
CINEMA-3	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LXG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	LIGAYA PANTASYA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-7	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-8	ALIPIN NG ALIW
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LXG
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LXG
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-12	DEBUT
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	NOON AT NGAYON

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	LAS
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTEL

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE IN-LAWS PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	FINDING NEMO GP 12:30,2:45,5:00, 7:15,9:30	NOON AT NGAYON: PAGSASAMANG KAY-GANDA - PG13 1:25,4:10,6:55,9:40
BAD BOYS 2 R13 12:20,3:20, 6:20,9:20	DEBUT R13 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:300	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN PG13 12:10,2:45,5:20,7:55,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

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DOLBY DIGITAL

CINEMA 1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 11:00; 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50 P13
CINEMA 2	FINDING NEMO 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 15,16,22,23,29,30, 2003	GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
AUG 19, 2003	MAY LEE IN CONCERT	8:30PM

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Cinema 1

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at the SM CINEMAS

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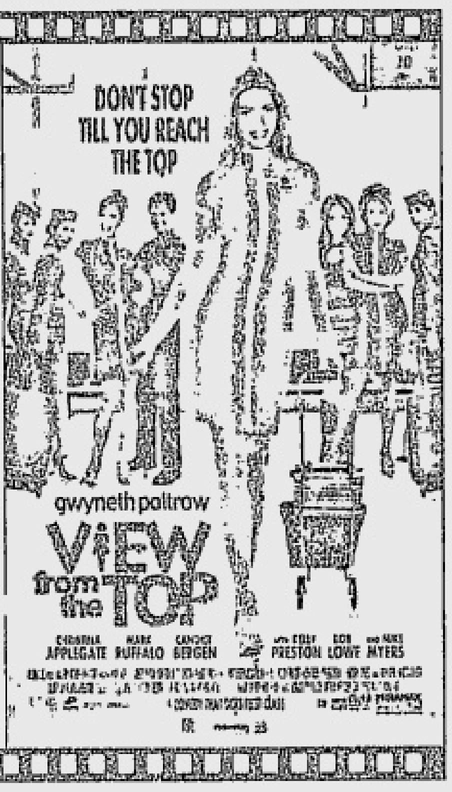
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TILL YOU REACH
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gwyneth paltrow
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CHRISTINA APPLEGATE
MARK RUFFALO
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KELLY PRESTON
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PG13
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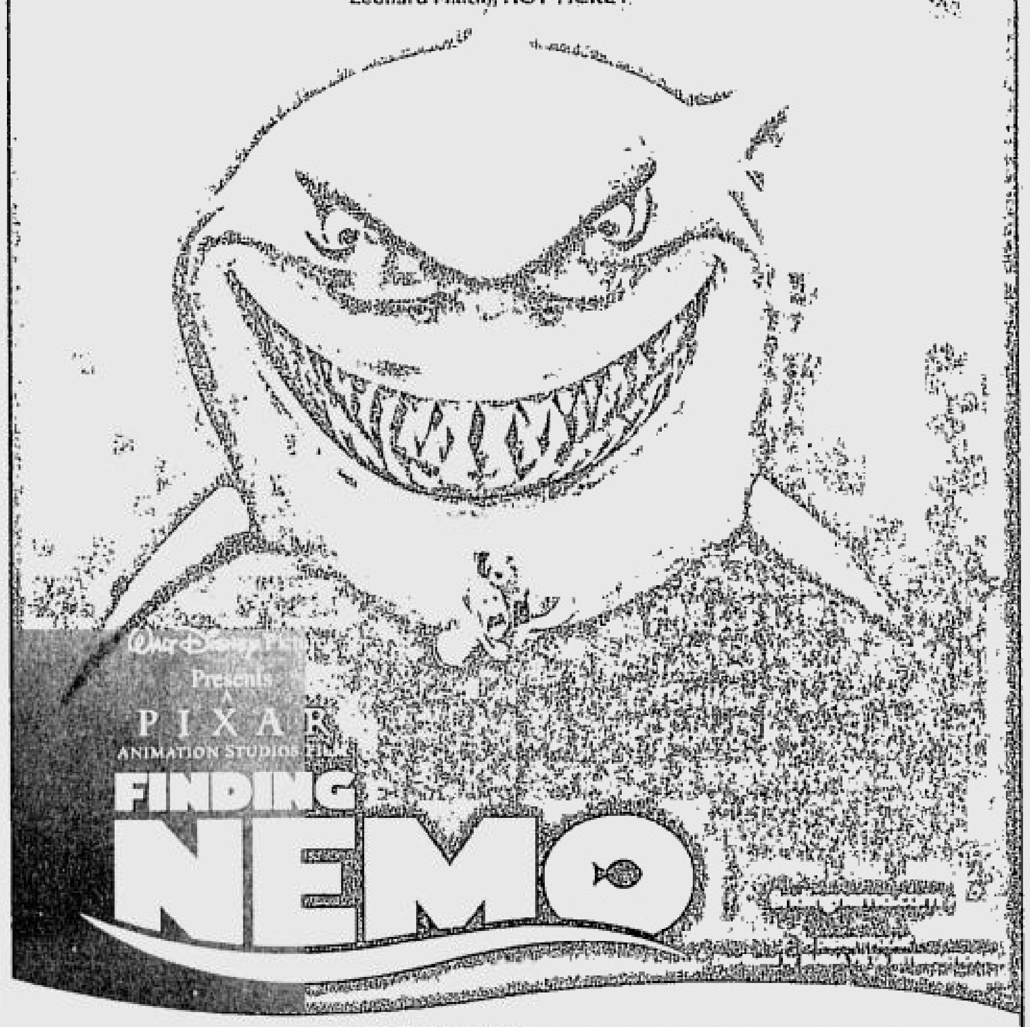
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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

BBDO dominates Cannes Int'l Advertising Festival

BBDO Worldwide was the most awarded global agency network at this year's International Advertising Festival in Cannes. The agency received a total of 42 Lions, significantly more than its closest competitor, including 14 gold, 13 silver, one media Lion and one special award for "Agency of the Year."

Almap BBDO in Brazil was the most awarded individual agency within the BBDO Network, capturing 10 Lions. This earned it recognition as one of the festival's "Agency of the Year."

What's more, BBDO Worldwide dominated the print/poster, direct and online media competitions. BBDO received 18 Lions for its print and poster work, 12 Lions for direct marketing, and five Cyber Lions for various online media campaigns.

This marks BBDO Worldwide's most impressive performance at Cannes in the past three years. Last year, BBDO Worldwide finished in second place with a total of 25 Lions. In 2001, the agency tied for first with 23 awards.

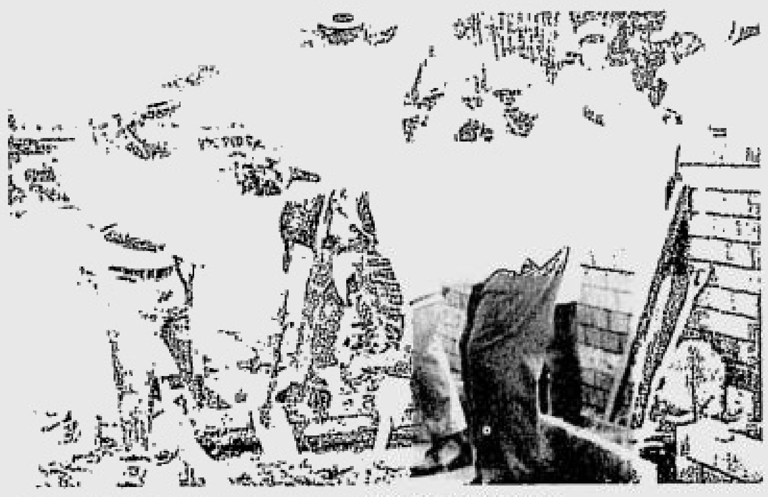
"Our global commitment to our mantra of 'The Work, The Work, The Work' as our reason for being has again been validated by the creative community as not just an agency slogan, but also a year-after-year deliverable," said Allen Rosenshine, chair and CEO, BBDO Worldwide. "Even more importantly, we have been able to demonstrate our creative excellence across all media and on behalf of a wide variety of clients. The Lions we have taken home are a tribute to the many BBDO agencies involved who are continuing to create an unparalleled body of work the world over."

In all, 13 different BBDO network agencies were awarded Lions. These included: Almap BBDO (11), AMV BBDO in London (4), AtmosphereBBDO in New York (1), BBDO Argentina (2), BBDO Bangkok (1), BBDO InterOne, Germany (1), Berry Bush BBDO in South Africa (1), Clemenger BBDO, New Zealand (2), CLM BBDO, Paris (1), Colenso BBDO in New Zealand (2), Contrapunto in Spain (2), Net#work BBDO in South Africa (1), and Tiempo BBDO in Barcelona (2).

In addition, six agencies of Proximity Worldwide, BBDO's global customer relationship marketing network, captured Lions for direct marketing: CP Comunicacion Proximity in Spain (3), CP Interactive in Spain (2), Craig Jones Watson in the UK (2), Palla Koblinger Proximity in Austria (3) and Proximity, Netherlands (1).

BBDO Worldwide is the third leading global agency network with 302 offices in 77 countries. In 2002, Ad Age and Ad Age Global named BBDO Worldwide "Global Agency of the Year" for an unprecedented second year in a row. It was also named "Global Agency of the Year" by Adweek magazine, making BBDO the only agency to receive the top honor from every leading industry publications in the same year. For 2002, BBDO was also named the most award-winning agency network based on results published in the prestigious Gunn Report. All told, BBDO agencies captured more than 500 major creative awards last year.

BBDO Worldwide is a part of Omnicom Group Inc. (NYSE: OMC). Omnicom is a leading global marketing and corporate communications company. Omnicom's branded networks and numerous specialty firms provide advertising, strategic planning and buying, direct and promotional marketing, public relations and other specialty communications services to over 5,000 clients in more than 100 countries.



SCB 'CUSTOMER WEEK' CELEBRATION
UK-based Standard Chartered Bank just concluded its Customer Week celebration in the Philippines with a variety of events that paid tribute to its external and internal customers' excellent partnership with the bank, based on mutual trust and confidence. Some 300 volunteers from the bank and its business partners trooped to the Customers' Habitat Build, and contributed to an equivalent of three-days' construction work for the site's medium rise low-cost houses for the marginalized residents. Earlier during the week SCB's CEO Simon Morris led more than 650 bank staff in welcoming customers at the various bank branches which were transformed with the carnival festival theme. The bank also presented loyalty awards to long-serving customers during the open house festivities and treated bank staff to the world premier of 'Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle'. In turn, the employees donated cash and gifts to charity. Photo shows SCB's CEO, Simon Morris (foreground) mixing cement while other SCB staff volunteers form a human chain for brick laying.

Total development assured with Dumex LF

LACTOSE intolerance is the inability to digest lactose, the sugar in milk. It is caused by an inadequate supply of the enzyme lactase, to digest lactose. Among the accompanying symptoms are diarrhea, tummy aches and a bloating sensation. Because of these discomforts, babies with lactose intolerance are usually irritable, fussy, cry a lot and may refuse to drink milk, which is their major source of nutrition.

Lactose intolerance is usually a temporary condition and best managed with a lactose free diet and may require some alteration in the food intake.

Dumex, pioneer of precision nutrition, now has Dumex LF (lactose free) - a special formula that offers young children the nutritional benefits of milk during the period when they experience diarrhea and other discomforts due to lactose intolerance.

Dumex LF is a special formula that contains maltodextrins, which is easy to digest, to replace lactose. Maltodextrins help reduce the risk of osmotic diarrhea brought about by the malabsorption of lactose. They also aid in minimizing the loss of nutrients to ensure an adequate energy intake.

The complete protein of Dumex LF also make it an excellent source of amino acids for growth and development. Other important nutrients present include fatty acids Omega 3, 6 and 9, Taurine, Nucleotides and Beta-carotene. As an added assurance, Dumex LF is formulated in accordance with internationally recognized standards.

Dumex LF contains Maxi-Q - a system if nutrients (neonutrients, enteronutrients, and immunonutrients) that work together to support optimum brain development, physical growth and a strong immune system.

Dumex LF is available in leading drugstores and pharmacies nationwide.

INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED ISABEL, LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, REGION VIII, RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The Municipality of Isabel, Leyte (Municipality) is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas (Project) along Dupong Bay, Isabel, Leyte intended for mixed use development such as commercial, industrial, residential, among others.

The Project shall be undertaken on a joint venture arrangement with the Municipality whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land rental or land to be reclaimed.

The Proponent/Developer must show proof of its legal, technical and financial capability and must submit the following pre-qualification documents attached to its letter of intent addressed to the Municipality to undertake the Project

1. Non-Refundable Filing Fee in the amount of P22,000.00 inclusive of VAT payable to the Municipality in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check;
2. Original copy of SEC Certification of Good Standing/Record;
3. Complete set of legal documents of the organization, i.e., Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm and member/s if consortium, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws, and Company Profile, Business Registration and License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent duly filed/stamped received by BIR;
5. Affidavit of Undertaking that if awarded the contract, to provide financing for the Project estimated to be not less than P1.587 Billion
6. Credit lines in specific amount issued and certified by reputable bank/s and financing institution/s;

All qualified Proponent(s)/Developer(s) shall be advised to submit project Pre-Feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by Municipality of the Project

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the Project including required attachments shall be on Sept. 30, 2003 at the office of the Mayor, Isabel, Leyte Tel. Nos. (053) 137-2053, not later than 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. FUENTES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PDI-Aug 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

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Clips

3-day sale at SM City Bacoor

SM City Bacoor will hold a grand 3-day sale event on Aug. 15, 16 and 17. The 3-day sale offers up to 50 percent price breaks on great selections mallwide. Shoppers at SM City Bacoor will be treated to choice buys and great deals on groceries, apparel, toys, infant essentials, home furnishings and many more. With the wide variety of items available at terrific savings, your shopping money will definitely go a long way. Mall hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Hang Ten umbrella promo

HANG Ten offers its patrons chic umbrellas that come free with every minimum single purchase of P800 Hang Ten merchandise until Aug. 15. The trendy yet handy Hang Ten umbrellas are available in maroon and blue. The promo is not valid when using gift certificates, purchasing sale or discounted items, or during mall-wide madness sale events. There are 34 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Pampanga. Newest branches are in Robinsons Sta Rosa (Laguna), SM Bicutan and Cagayan de Oro, and Malabon CitiSquare.

Soil Awards deadline set

THE Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) encourages the public to submit their nominees - whether an institution, a community or a person - for the MAP First Search for Outstanding Indigenous Peoples Leadership (Soil) Awards. The search is on until Aug. 15. The main objective of the Soil Awards is to recognize the potential of the indigenous peoples' leadership - individuals, groups of indigenous cultural communities - that have acquired achievements in community development and progress of their cultural heritage. The awards is being spearheaded by MAP in cooperation with the Office of the President. For inquiries on the Soil Awards, please call the MAP secretariat at 751-1149 or 751-1152.

NESTLÉ WINS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD
The Pollution Control Association of the Philippines Inc. (PCAPI) recently presented a Success Story Award to Nestlé Philippines Inc. for the implementation of its 'Greening the Supply Chain' program, a continuing initiative to promote sustained environmentally friendly practices among its business partners. Displaying the award in photo (from left) are Nestlé executives Helbert Cual, CDO factory environmental officer; Obet Feliciano, environmental services department manager; Jess Reyes, AVP and corporate environmental officer, and Edwin Ramilo, Lipa factory environmental officer.

ADBOARD KAPIHAN
The Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) recently held its 'AdBoard Kapihan' at the New World Hotel. The event was a project of the Industry Development Committee chaired by AdBoard vice chair Gigi Rodriguez. AdBoard Kapihan was participated in by representatives from each member association namely Pana, 4As, KBP, UPMG, OAAP, Asap, Caap, IBA and Mores. It was spearheaded by 2003 AdBoard chair Cerge Remonde. The AdBoard Kapihan served as a venue for all member associations to share their views and comments regarding the projects and programs of AdBoard. Shown in photo during the open discussion are (from left): Lito Israel of Diversified Media Services, AdBoard vice chair Gigi Rodriguez, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, AdBoard chair Cerge Remonde, Carlo Llave of The Fourth Dimension and Miguel Ramos of Aspac Advertising.

SSS ACCREDITS CITYSTATE AS COLLECTING AND PAYING AGENT
Social Security System and Citystate Savings Bank recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement accrediting the bank as collecting and paying agent. Photo shows SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz exchanging signed documents with CSBI president Dr. Alfred Cabangon. Also present during the signing ceremony were lawyer Rey Delfin, EVP/CSBI (left) and Gamelin Oczon, vice president treasury division / SSS (right).

NEW PANA MEMBERS
The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) inducted new members to the association during its general membership meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Pana president Gigi Rodriguez of Citibank, N.A. inducted the new members. Photo shows the induction ceremony, from left were: Pana president Gigi Rodriguez, Fortunato Babasa for Campbell Asia Soup Limited, Edwin Hernandez of Jardine Davies Inc., Malu Estaris and Roe Quiambao of Electrolux Philippines Inc., Fernn Tolentino of Cathay Builder's Center Inc. and Irene Carpeña of Shoemakers Inc.

ProductFILES

Half-Price Bonus on at Dunkin' Donuts

IN THE whole month of August, Dunkin' Donuts will be offering the Half-Price Bonus promo. Every purchase of their boxed donuts will give you the chance to buy your next box of the same bundle at only half the price. And this time, everyone can choose from any of the promo's three deliciously tempting packages. That's getting more than what you bargained for. When you buy a dozen, half-dozen or a niners box, you get 50 percent off on your next box at the same price. Get your discounted second box right after you purchase your first because this discount is applicable to single transactions only. Hurry now and bring home bundles of Dunkin' Donuts goodies at only half the price.

DUNKIN DONUTS
DUNKIN DONUTS

TheatreNow's Cafe Vittorio and Despedida de Soltera

THEATERNOW, the laboratory arm of Gantimpala (GTF), presents their maiden offering via a twin-bill presentation of two contemporary Filipino plays namely Cafe Vittorio and Despedida de Soltera on Aug. 15, 8:00 p.m. / Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. / and Aug. 17, 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Saint Cecilia's Hall, Saint Scholastica's College, Manila. For tickets and other information about TheaterNow and its forthcoming productions and activities, call 899-5745 or at 896-3503.

Vital shots in your kid's life

PARENTS should be aware that vaccines work best when they are given to children at certain ages and on a regular schedule. Pediatric vaccination program is one of the services offered by Healthway's Pediatric Wellness Center at SM City North Edsa. Aside from the pedia center, Healthway is also opening 3 other specialty centers: the Women's Wellness Center, Cardiac Wellness Center, and Dental Wellness Center. The formal opening of these 4 centers is on Aug. 15 at Basement Level, Annex Bldg., SM North Edsa QC. For details, call 7514985 and 9269235-39

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•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

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Cell: 0917-8107717

HOUSE & LOT

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NR LA SALLE BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

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P1.3 -2.6M neg CASH / TERM 2-5BR Tel. 9980160 /4752048

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QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

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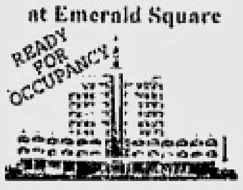
QUEZON CITY

The TOWER at Emerald Square



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CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

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MANILA

CAROLA ST NR UST 8958767

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

•P6.5T 2BR T-926-7433

PROJ4 NICE 2BR SAFE PVT W/TEL GRG P10T 913-9217

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Blul 3BR2TB P10T 7008515

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 6660140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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APPLIANCES

GE Ref 13 c.f. P9T 896-2271

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Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
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Tel. Nos. 372-5057 * 372-5042
Fax Nos. 372-5048 * 372-5061

BFAR NEEDS LAWYERS

Two (2) Legal Officer IV - SG 22, P231,012/annum
One (1) Legal Officer III - SG 20, P213,588/annum

Bar Passers not more than 40 years old

Interested applicants may present their credentials and report for interview at the Legal Division at the above address.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the Raois - Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project under the Integrated Water Supply and Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	Proposed Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	240 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Supply and Installation of pipelines and fittings and Construction of related works

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid-Documents to pre-qualified bidders	From September 15-16, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	9:00 p.m., September 17, 2003
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 p.m., September 30, 2003

For issuance of Bidder's Pre-qualification Form and Plans/Bid Documents you may contact:

PBAC Technical Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Acting City Mayor

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 23 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop. Alw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of February 2003 will be auctioned on August 21, 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer. (PDI-August 14, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SIXTO LLADOC & GENDVEVA HERNANDEZ was adjudicated to Jaine Esquilon, Epitanio, Quirino & Resurreccion as per Doc. 393 Page 80 Book IV Series of 2003 before Notary Public Cesar T. Ching of Marikina City.
PDI-Aug.14,18 & 25,2003

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Nihongo Kaiwa	Tue/Thur (6:00-8:00 p.m.) Sept. 2-Oct. 9, 2003
Review Class for Japan Foundation's Proficiency Test-Level 3 (Dec. 2003)	Saturday (1:30-4:40 p.m.) Oct. 18-Nov. 29, 2003

For inquiries, visit or contact us at:

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833 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City
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Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 145, Makati City

IN RE : IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE PROBATE OF THE WILL OF CARLOS P FERNANDEZ, DECEASED AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY.

VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Petitioner,
- versus -
SP. PROC No. M-503C
MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ and
CARMEN FERNANDEZ BEAVES,
Oppositors
x - x

IN RE : IN THE MATTER OF INTESTATE OF CARLOS P FERNANDEZ

MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ,
Petitioner
- versus -
VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Oppositor.
x - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER
(Letters Testamentary - of Administration)

A joint decision dated 7 January 2003 having been rendered in the above entitled cases in favor of herein petitioner Vicente T. Fernandez as Executor of the last Will of the late Carlos P. Fernandez which has been admitted for probate pursuant to the said judgment and the Order dated 2 June 2003.

It is HEREBY ORDERED that notice be, and the same is hereby given requiring all person having claims for money against the decedent Carlos P. Fernandez, arising from contracts, express or implied, whether the same be due, not due, or contingent, for funeral expenses and expenses of the last sickness of the said decedent and judgement for money against him, to file said claims with the Clerk of this Court sitting at the 4th floor Gusali ng Katarungan, F. Zobel, Makati City, within six (6) months from the last publication of this Order-Notice which is directed to be published at the expense of the Estate of said decedent for three (3) consecutive weeks at a newspaper of general circulation, serving a copy of the said claim upon the aforementioned Vicente T. Fernandez, the appointed Executor of the last Will of the said decedent, relative to herein subject Estate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, this 1 July 2003.

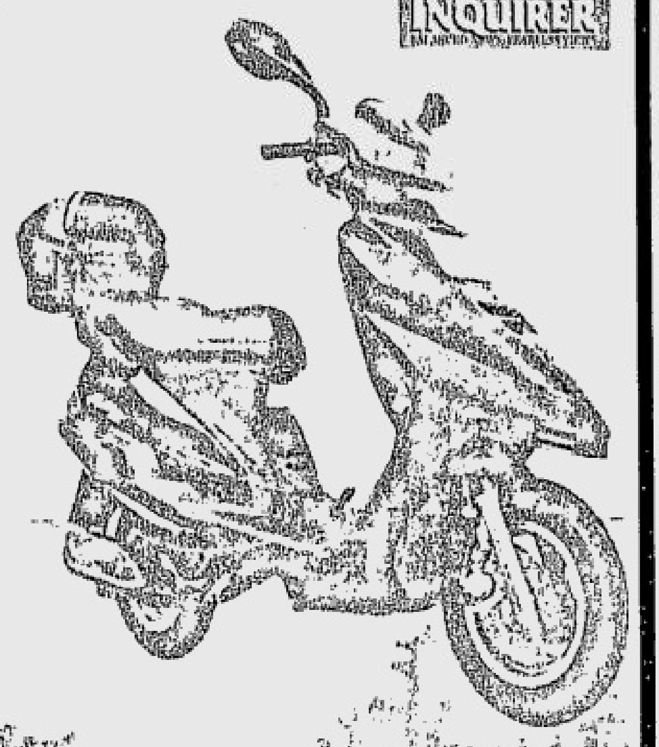
(Sgd.) CESAR D. SANTAMARIA
Presiding Judge

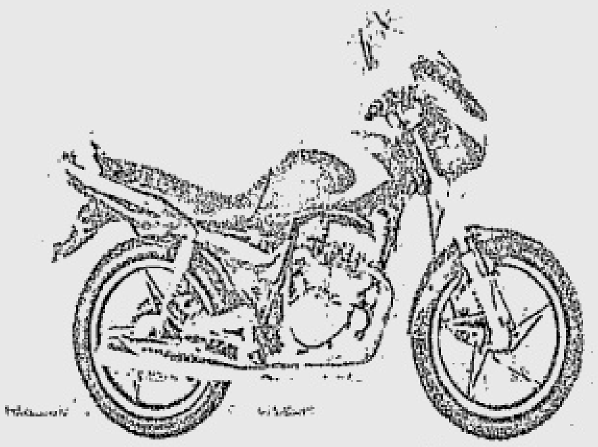
(PDI – July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2003)

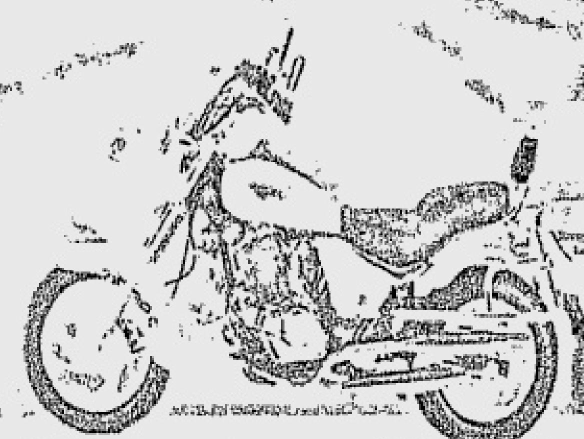
★2003★CHINA★ CHONGQING ★TRADE★EXPO

PHILIPPINES

2003中国重庆出口商品展览会

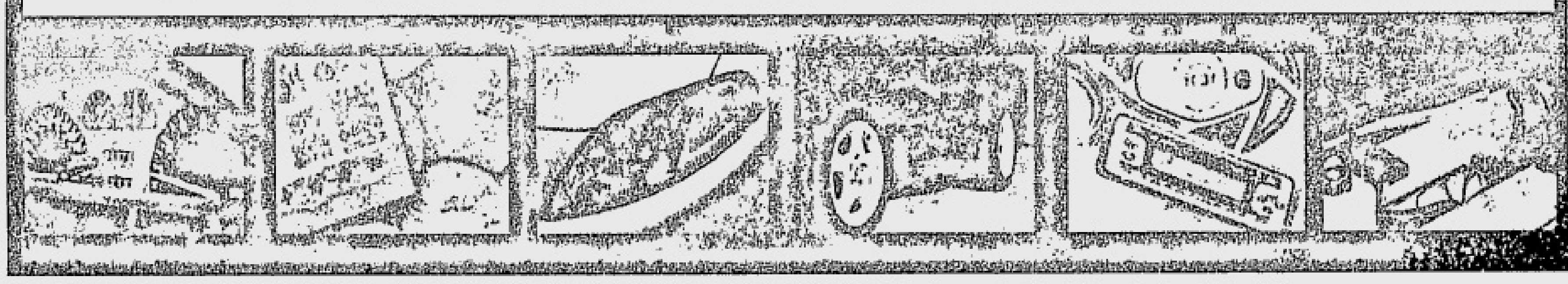






Business Opportunities in Foreign Trade

AUGUST 14-17, 2003 WORLD TRADE CENTER, MANILA, PHILIPPINES



FREE ENTRANCE

CHONGQING in one of China's biggest municipalities and one of the largest cities in the world. It is the economic center, the hub of water, land and air transport in Southwest China. With world markets opening up for free trade, Chongqing's environment for investment has been further improved and this broad land is offering full opportunities for international business and trade.

EXHIBIT PROFILE. Being the largest vehicle and motorcycle base in China, the China Chongqing Expo will feature the motorcycle, electric bikes, automotive, engine, and spare parts industry. However, other industries also featured in the expo include the following: textile, fabrics, electronics, generators, pumps, agricultural machinery, car accessories & many others

VISITOR PROFILE. Invited to the show are Investors, Entrepreneurs, Motorcycle and Automotive Enthusiasts, Dealers and Distributors, Decision Makers, Relevant Organizations, Relevant Government Agencies, and the General Public.

TRADE OBJECTIVES. To foster closer economic ties between China and the Philippines through a showcase of the various business opportunities available in Chongqing.

SUPPORTED BY. Office of the President of the Philippines * Office of the Vice President of the Philippines * Senate of the Philippines * House of Representatives of the Philippines * Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) * Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) * Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) * Filipino Chinese Business Club * Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) * Luzon Motorcyclists Federation, Inc.

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2003-003

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	DATE/TIME & PLACE OF BIDDING	ITEM DESCRIPTION	INQUIRY NO.	ABC
	Sept. 22, 2003 10.00 AM Kañao Room	Hauling Services of Diesel Fuel from designated origin to diff NPC SPUG-Luzon Power Plants (Single Stage Variation Bidding)	PB030922-MMVB9245	41,023,200 00
	Sept. 10, 2003 10.00 AM Pahiyas Room	Digital Multi-Function electricity Meter, Potential Transformer, Current Transformer & Portable Configuration Modifier for up-grading of metering equipment for Luzon Operations	PB030910-MMMAM9246	3,600,000.00
	Sept. 12, 2003 10.00 AM Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Genset of Dinagat DPP & Hikdop DPP "Dale"	PB030912-MMVB9247	.410,000.00
	Sept. 15, 2003 10.00 AM Kañao Room	Mechanical Parts for Kalamansig DPP, Tempos DPP & Cuyo DPP "Parkins"	PB030915-MMVB9248	3,931,164.42
	Sept. 17, 2003 10.00 AM MMD Conf. Room	Electrical S/P for Tablas DPP "Dale"	PB030917-MMVB9249	,015,140.00
	Sept. 18, 2003 10.00 AM MMD Conf. Room	Replacement Parts for the Preventive Maintenance of Daihatsu" Engine for PB 105	PB030918-MMAM9256	21,026,272.00
VII	Sept. 19, 2003 10.00 AM Kañao Room	Electrical S/P for Tablas DPP "MAN B&W"	PB030919-MMAM9250	1,058,500.00
	Sept. 24, 2003 10.00 AM Pahiyas Room	S/P for PB 120 "Daihatsu" Engine 6DK-32	PB030924-MMJP9251	3,202,350.00
	Sept. 26, 2003 10.00 AM Morones Room	Parts for Tablas DPP MONL/BOAC DPP "CKD"	PB030826-MMAM9252	8,963,420.00
	Sept. 29, 2003 10.00 AM Kañao Room	Injector Assy. S/P and various Electrical parts of Power Barge 109, 560 KW Genset & Pilar & DPP "Dale Parkins"	PB030716-MMAM8738(PB2)	6,400,486.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
I	August 25, 2003	10.00 AM	Pahiyas Function Room
II	August 25, 2003	2.00 PM	Pahiyas Function Room
III	August 25, 2003	3.00 PM	Pahiyas Function Room
IV	August 26, 2003	10.00 AM	MMD Conference Room
V	August 26, 2003	11.00 AM	MMD Conference Room
VI & VIII	August 26, 2003	2.00 PM	MMD Conference Room
VII	August 26, 2003	3.00 PM	MMD Conference Room
IX	August 27, 2003	2.00 PM	MMD Conference Room
X	August 27, 2003	3.00 PM	MMD Conference Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP100.00 per schedule starting on August 14, 2003. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration/Accreditation issued by Former Genco Offices, MMSD and PSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order No. 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 21, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY under the Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	Materials Recovery Facility (Solid Waste Recycling Plant)
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	90 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Supply and Installation of Equipment

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a.	Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b.	Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
c.	Issuance of Plans/Bid-Documents to pre-qualified bidders	From September 15-16, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00
d.	Site Visit/Bid Conference	10:00 p.m., September 17, 2003
e.	Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 10:00 a.m., September 30, 2003

For issuance of Bidder's Pre-qualification Form and Plans/Bid Documents you may contact:

PBAC Technical Secretariat
City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Acting City Mayor

(PDI - Aug. 14 & 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Vigan, Republic of the Philippines has received a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the construction of the PROTECTION DIKE (Stone Masonry) for the Materials Recovery Facility under the Integrated Solid Waste Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply for the proceeds of this grant to eligible payments under the contracts for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan, hereinafter referred to as the "Owner", intents to pre-qualify contractor of:

Name of Project	PROTECTION DIKE (Stone Masonry)
Location	Vigan City
Contract Duration	90 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Construction Works

3. Pre-qualification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures.

Schedule of application for pre-qualification and bidding are as follows:

a.	Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	From Aug. 26-29, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b.	Submission of Duly Accomplished pre-qualification Documents	From September 1-3, 2003 Prepare/ Submit Duly Accomplished Pre-qualification Documents
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City Planning and Development Office
Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 to 75 Local 213

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects and formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
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(PDI - Aug. 14 & 23, 2003)

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ESTER D. OLANO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on August 11, 2003 at the age of 67.

Her loving husband **LINO** (†); sons and daughters-in-law **BUTCH** and **DAISY**, **RAY** and **DIDETTE**; grandchildren **SARAH**, **DANA**, **CHESKA**, **TRICIA**, **RENZO**, **RINA** and **SAMANTHA**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Funeral Mass is on Friday, August 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Cremation is on Saturday, August 16, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Crematorium, Marikina City.

We, the family of the late

Manuel Garcia Arcinas

of Batangas City, Batangas
who joined the Lord on August 7, 2003

Wish to convey our sincerest gratitude to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered prayers, called from abroad, attended funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Dr. Rodolfo Y. Gaddi

now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness
of our Lord on August 12, 2003 at the age of 76.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel L, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Holy Mass will be offered on August 16, 2003, 6:00 p.m. at Chapel L.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 17, 2003 at 6:00 a.m. at Paz Crematorium.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

FILOMENO R. ESPIRITU

Peacefully joined our Lord
on August 10, 2003 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Bienvenida**; his children **Angie**, **Buds & Tess**, **Tim & Este**, **Alex & Beth**, **Emma**, **Antonina**, **Emmy & Mary-Anne** and **Jojo & Bubut**; his brother & sister-in-law **Felising & Anday**; his grandchildren; in-laws, relatives & friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at #18 Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 17, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Agustina Andal de Castro

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 12, 2003 at the age of 86.

She is survived by her children **Lito & Lily Aguila**, **Ernie & Nanette de Castro**, **Boy & Linda de Castro**, **Ed & Melba de Castro & Jun & Glo de Castro**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Ibaan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at Ibaan Cemetery.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." John 3:16

New Hap Seng Group of Companies
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our beloved "Tatay"

SEE TAM

has been reunited with our Lord
January 26, 1927 - August 10, 2003

His beloved wife **GAN SY**; children and children in law **Willy & May**, **Wilson & Irene**, **Ting Ting & Siu Pak**, **Min Min & Howard**, **Sun Sun & Anthony**, grandchildren, **Charlene**, **Kenneth**, **Matthew**, **Spencer**, **Vincent**, **Samantha**, **Cydney**, **Andrea**, **Zeline** and **Darwin**, request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 4, Funeraria Paz, Manila.

Interment will take place on Monday, August 18, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"Sé tú mi roca fuerte, a donde recurra yo continuamente.
Has mandado que yo sea librado, porque tú eres mi roca, mi fortaleza."

Salmo 71, 3

MERCEDES CACHO VALLÉS

Septiembre 1, 1918 - agosto 12, 2003

Falleció en Manila el martes 12 de agosto de 2003,
habiendo recibido los Santos Sacramentos.

Su esposo **Enrique** (†); Sus hermanos, **Anton** y **Maxine Cacho**, **Betty Cacho;** Sus hijos, **Jose Mari** y **Carmen, Carlos** y **Chona, Adele** y **Jose Gabriel Olives**, **Isabel** y **Nony Lovina, Cristina** y **Tommy Barretto;** Sus nietos, **Enrique** y **Myra, Patricia, Crisann** y **Miguel, Veronica** y **Paco, Javy, Mikel** (†), **Monica, Enrique, Andrea, Ines, Jenelle,** y **Nick;** Y sus bisnietos **Annika** y **Seve,** ruegan una oración por su alma.

Sus restos descansaran en su casa, 538 Fordham Road, Wack Wack Village, hasta el viernes. La Sagrada Misa se celebrará el sábado día 16 de agosto a las 9 de la mañana en la Capilla de La Salle Greenhills. Por voluntad de la fallecida, en vez de flores, por favor envíen una donación a Kaisahang Buhay Foundation o a I CAN SERVE en su memoria. Gracias.

PGK PEDRO C. MARGAREJO

Passed away on August 11, 2003

His remains lie in state at
St. Paul the Cross Chapel,
SSS Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 8:00 a.m.

DEATH NOTICES

ENGR. JOSE MONSALUD MIER

Passed away on August 11, 2003
at the age of 89.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Park Chapel, A Bonifacio Ave., Tañong, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 15, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Chapel.

OSIAS REBUSTILLO NEPOMUCENO

Passed away on August 9, 2003

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Viejo, Makati.

Interment will be on August 19, 2003 at Irosin Catholic Cemetery, Irosin, Sorsogon.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..." Cor. 15:22

REYNALDO RAFAEL B. PINEDA

of San Miguel, Bulacan and Tacloban City
Provincial Prosecutor of Leyte
Peacefully joined his Creator on August 12, 2003
at the age of 51.

His loving wife **EDEN CHUA**; children **RACHELLE**, **REENA**, & **RAINIER**; sisters & brothers **CORAZON** (Sr. Mary Jane RGS), **CARMELITA**, **ALBERTO**, **ROMULO Jr.** & **RODELIO**; mother-in-law **FEDERICA CHUA**, brothers-in-law Judge **EDGAR**, **EDWARD**, Vice-Mayor **EDWIN**, **EDISON** and their families request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the IMPERIAL CHAPEL of La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C. and it will be transferred to Tacloban City on Thursday morning August 14, 2003.

Interment will be on August 17, 2003 at the New Chinese Cemetery, Tacloban City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Most Reverend Rolando J. Tria Tirona, OCD., D.D.
The Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Malolos
Extend their sincerest prayers and condolences to the relatives and friends
Of

REV. MONSIGNOR JOSE B. AGUINALDO

who peacefully joined His Creator, our Loving Father
on August 11, 2003, Monday at the age of 87

A requiem Mass will offered on Friday, August 15 at Sta. Ana National Shrine in Hagonoy, Bulacan at 3:00 p.m.

"Living or Dying, Lord Jesus, I would be Yours,
Keep me Your own forever.
Draw me day by day nearer to You
Until I am wholly filled with your Love.

BUSINESS

Asian stocks rise

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks climbed on Wednesday as the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates at 45-year lows and said it would persist with the easy policy for a considerable period to stimulate growth in the world's biggest economy.

Japanese shares led the way in Asian trade. Sentiment was boosted not only by the Fed but by surprisingly strong GDP data on Tuesday. Traders said more gains were likely.

Stocks were up more than 2 percent in Taiwan, about one percent in Singapore and 0.76 percent in Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Malaysia were also higher.

A Morgan Stanley index of Asian stock markets ex-Japan was up 0.57 percent.

The Dow Jones index ended one percent higher after the Fed's announcement left benchmark lending rates at one percent in an effort to reinvigorate the economy.

The FOMC warned about the risk of inflation becoming undesirably low and said the outlook for growth remained neutral. *Reuters*

Fed holds rates at 45-year low

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve held a key short-term interest rate at a 45-year low Tuesday amid scattered signs that the economy, after months of stubborn listlessness, is perking up.

Fed Chair Alan Greenspan and his Federal Open Market Committee colleagues—the group that sets interest rate policy in the United States—kept the federal funds rate at one percent. The funds rate is the interest banks charge each other on overnight loans and is the Fed's primary tool for influencing economic activity.

The decision was unanimous.

The Fed said that currently low short-term interest rates, coupled with still-robust productivity gains, are "providing important ongoing support to economic activity." The committee also said that since the Fed's last meeting on June 25 spending is taking hold, although labor market indicators are mixed.

Holding the funds rate steady means that commercial banks' prime lending rate for many short-term consumer and business loans, will remain at 4 percent, the lowest level since 1959. The funds rate and the prime rate move in lockstep and were last lowered on June 25.

At that time, the Fed sliced the funds rate by one-quarter percentage point, marking the 13th cut since January 2001, when the central bank's credit-easing campaign began.

Rates on longer-term loans, however, rose after the Fed's June 25 action. Disappointment on Wall Street that the Federal Reserve didn't make a bolder cut to short-term rates pushed bond rates up, which caused long-term mortgage rates to rise. More recent signs that the economy is gaining traction also contributed to rising rates.

Rising mortgage rates have slowed refinancing activity, an important force underpinning consumer spending. Economists, however, are hopeful that larger paychecks and other incentives coming from Bush's latest tax cut will move in to support spending as refinancing cools.

The Fed's decision Tuesday to hold the funds rate steady comes as private economists believe the economy, which limped through the first six months of this year, will gain speed in the last half. Some are estimating that growth in last six months will clock in at an annual rate of 3.5 percent to 4 percent or more. *AP*

Poor nations unimpressed by duty cuts

GENEVA—Developing countries gave a cool reception Tuesday to plans by the world's biggest economies to force cuts in global duties on imports, claiming the move would hurt them far more than wealthy nations.

Members of the World Trade Organization studied a proposal, submitted jointly by the United States, the European Union and Canada, for big reductions in the highest tariffs as part of the current round of trade liberalization negotiations.

"The objective is to try to get ambition to drive deeper cuts," Canadian Ambassador Sergio Marchi told reporters.

The proposal would set a ceiling on duties across the board—although the exact level would vary from product to product—but gives no specific figures. It would apply to all goods exported from one country to another except those treated as "agricultural."

But developing countries, who on average have higher duties than rich nations, say such a move would hurt them.

While they agree that cuts should be made, they want to be able to retain high tariffs in some areas to protect domestic producers from foreign competition.

Pakistan was among the countries that said the joint proposal went "completely in the wrong direction," although the paper was welcomed by Eastern European and former Soviet Bloc countries.

Carlo Trojan, EU ambassador to the WTO, said he believed "anxieties will fade away" once countries have time to study the proposal in detail. *AP*

US retailers release low Q2 earnings

CHICAGO—JC Penney Co. Inc. and other US retailers on Tuesday posted second-quarter results largely in line with lowered expectations after uncooperative weather and waning consumer confidence dented demand.

However, some retailers predicted stronger sales in the coming months, saying the US economy was showing signs of recovery and recent tax rebates should provide a much needed boost during the back-to-school shopping season.

Kicking off a busy earnings week—with results still to come from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Corp.—J.C. Penney said a second-quarter rebound in department store sales compensated for what it called "clearly disappointing" demand at its Eckerd drug store chain.

May Department Stores Co., parent of Lord & Taylor and Filene's, reported operating income slightly above Wall Street expectations, while discounter TJX Cos. Inc. met its lowered forecast.

US retailers grappled with rising unemployment and waning consumer confidence last quarter, which prompted many consumers to delay all but essential purchases. To make matters worse, an unusually cool, wet spring curbed demand for summer clothing.

But JC Penney and others said they remained hopeful that recent signs of an economic recovery would translate into stronger second-half sales.

"As we begin the second half, we anticipate benefits from a more favorable consumer environment supported by the positive impacts that the tax package will have on our customers," Allen Questrom, chair and chief executive of JC Penney, said in a statement.

The optimistic outlook comes as US retailers start the back-to-school shopping season, considered the second most important period behind the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas holiday shopping season.

Retailers are hoping that the tax credits of $400 per child, sent out to more than 25 million families, will lift consumer spending in the next few weeks. *Reuters*

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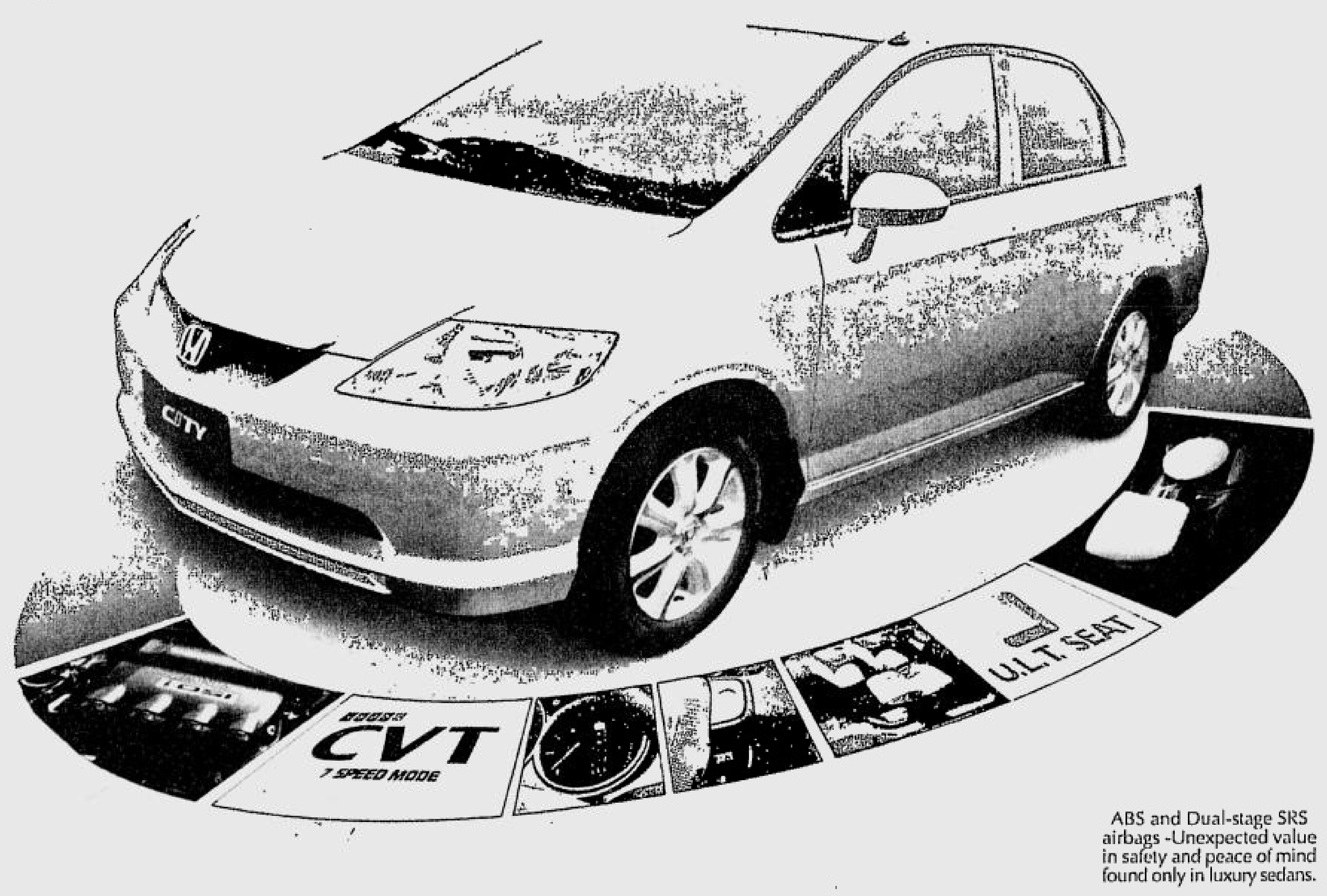

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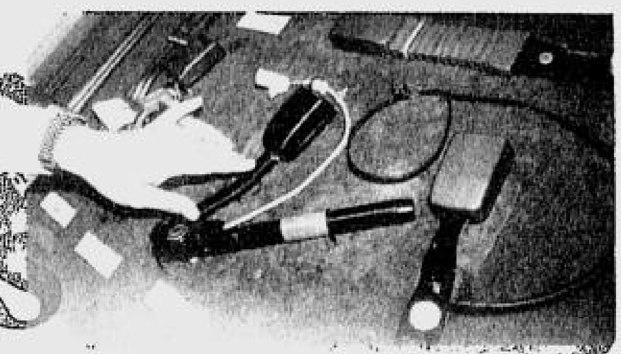
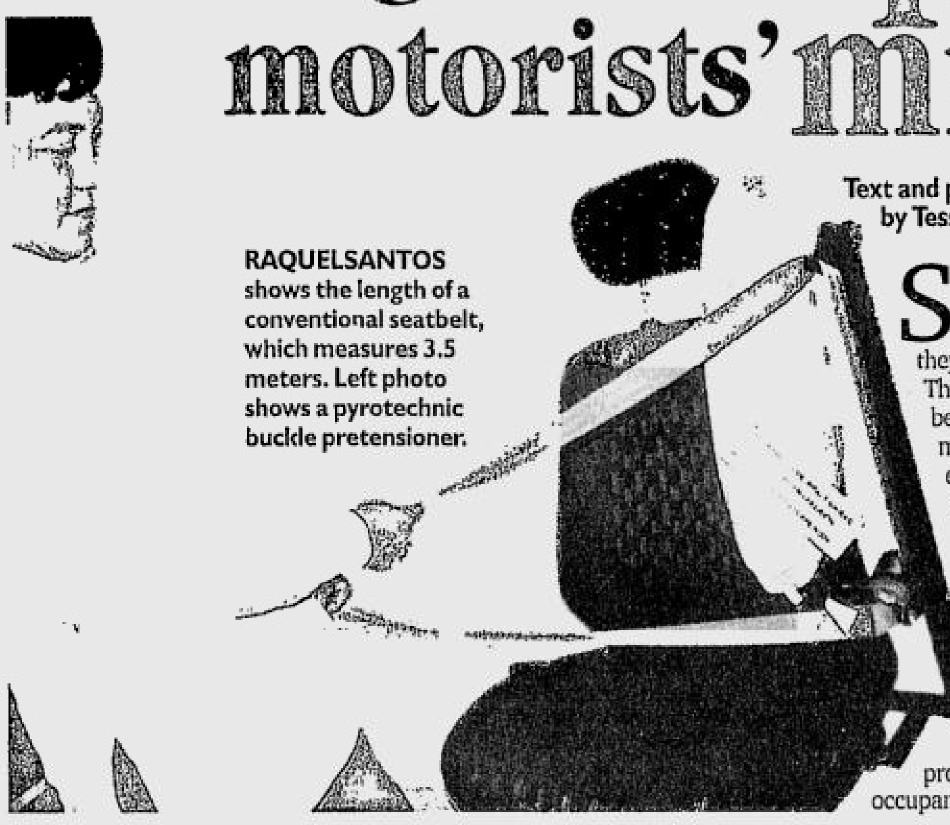
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Striving hard to prevent motorists' misfortunes





RAQUELSANTOS shows the length of a conventional seatbelt, which measures 3.5 meters. Left photo shows a pyrotechnic buckle pretensioner.

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

SEATBELTS and airbags could be motorists' best friends (not to mention lifesavers) if they're made and used properly. The standard strength for a seatbelt is 15 kilo newtons (Kn). This means the strength that would effectively absorb the impact of a 45 to 55 kph head-on collision.

Anything faster than that, which means any collision more forceful, could crush the ribs of the vehicle's occupants.

But that doesn't mean going slow makes things easier for seatbelt makers. If the collision occurs below the 45-55 kph range, an improperly made belt would not give occupants the optimum protection.

Buckling test

Visiting a seatbelt production in Mamplasan, Laguna, gives this writer a whole new perspective and appreciation of the science of vehicle restraint systems. Try witnessing the buckle insertion test. The belt buckle and the metal tongue have to withstand 45,000 counts of insertions and "unbuckling."

Some parts in production are subjected to the buckle endurance test. For instance, the belt's "tongue" must not get stuck on the 40,000th or 35,000th buckling. Once the buckling test passes the 45,000 mark, the seatbelt is at par with international standards.

Europe's top car occupant restraint company Autoliv QB Inc. and its five-year-old Philippine counterpart makes seatbelts for the automobile industry.

Thus, new developments in making specialized seatbelts are constantly being aimed for.

Apart from pedestrian airbags, night vision systems and the "three-plus-two-point seatbelts," the company has developed seatbelts for the elderly, for the pregnant, for the "top heavy" females (for the, ahem, well-endowed women), for big-chested males, infants, and even for dogs.

Seatbelts for the elderly, for instance, are made of more delicate material than regular seatbelts.

Seatbelts for pregnant women feature a second strap that pulls the diagonal straps—those that go across the chest—to go below the woman's sensitive belly.

The retraction force of belts for top heavy women would be a bit more loose, says Autoliv

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396,000	50,411	34,538	27,455	19,683	16,059	13,617
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Volvo S80 the second time around

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

"THIS car looks familiar," I thought, when a ruby red Volvo S80 was delivered last Friday for test-driving over the weekend. No wonder the Volvo looked familiar—my files showed that a Venetian red S80 was with me during the weekend of Feb. 7-9, 2001.

But I did not write a test report on the S80 in 2001. How could that have happened, when driving a Volvo—even for only a weekend—is a pleasurable experience worth describing to readers? The S80 is not just any passenger sedan: it is the biggest, top-of-the-line four-door Volvo in the stable of Viking Cars Inc. at P2,725,000 only second in value to its six-cylinder variant, the S80 T6 Twin Turbo (P3,800,000).

Directly competing with the BMW 5 Series, Audi A6 and Mercedes-Benz E Class, the S80 has the traditional Volvo feel of sturdiness, safety, quality and comfort without the boxy exterior that in the past characterized Volvos as cars for old or conservative people. The S80 is so state-of-the-art stylish and elegant, in fact, that since its introduction in 1998, it has garnered 18 automotive design awards including the coveted Pan-Europe award based on the votes of 500 professional car designers and design students from 33 countries.

Grand touring

The S80 gets my vote as the best grand touring car today, perfect for long out-of-town trips because it is so easy to drive, so comfortable, so quiet, so roomy and so smooth aside from being so safe. Its 2.0-liter, 5-cylinder, 20-valve, Light Pressure Turbo with intercooler engine mated to a smooth-shifting 4-speed Adaptive Automatic Transmission produces peak 180 brake horsepower/5,300 rpm and develops max torque of 240 Nm starting from only 2,200 rpm. Some may think that considering the S80's hefty size and weight, those engine specs may not be enough to deliver sporty performance, but for purposes of long-distance cruising, the S80's transverse-mounted 5-pot powerplant is more than adequate. On a straightaway, for instance, it hit 180 km per hour without straining. Front and rear stabilizer bars, hydraulic shock absorbers and coil springs combine with MacPherson struts up front and a multilink independent rear suspension to guarantee a cushy ride.

Refinements

The dashboard presents controls and gauges in a logical, easy-to-reach and easy-to-understand arrangement. Interior refinements include individual climate control dials for the driver and front seat passenger, reading lamps front and rear, a cabin pollen filter, B-pillar air vents for rear seat passengers, rear headrests that fold at the touch of a button, auto-dim rear view mirror, five cup holders up front and illuminated vanity mirrors. The sound system is superb, consisting of an AM/FM tuner with in-dash CD, cassette player, eight loudspeakers and a 10-disc CD changer in the trunk.

Volvo has thoughtfully provided in the S80 a flexible plastic clasp behind the left side of the windshield where the driver can insert his ID or driver's license for security guards manning village gates to see. But one convenient device the S80 lacks is a rear back-up sensor. Since the S80 is a pretty long car to park backing up, a rear back-up sensor would enhance its maneuverability.

Aside from luxurious comfort, the S80's major strengths are its excellent build quality and limousine-like interior spaciousness with plenty of leg room and head room and adjustable, well-padded leather seats that can comfortably accommodate even the overweight. The rear seats can be split and folded down to increase trunk space which, by itself, is already cavernous enough.

Advanced safety features

But it is in the reassuring abundance of advanced safety features that the Volvo S80 manifests its superiority over its rivals. The S80 is not only equipped with six airbags and an inflatable side curtain, the driver and front passenger airbags are the intelligent, dual-stage kind that adapt inflation according to the severity of an impact, thereby reducing the risk of injury. The airbags coordinate with the three-point, automatic pretensioner seatbelts that all five seating positions have. Volvo's Side Protection System (SIPS), Whiplash Protection Seating System (WHIPS), anti-submarine seats, collapsible steering column and safety cage construction complete the occupant safety picture. Stability Traction Control and the electronic anti-lock braking system (ABS) on front and rear disc brakes help prevent a crash.

Summing up, this Scandinavian chariot is more impressive the second time around. So the next time I go to Baguio, I sure hope I'll be test-driving a Volvo S80, this time the 2004 model that is coming to these shores before the year ends.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

RPN AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 2:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

HOW safe are airbags when deployed for drivers wearing eyeglasses?

—Dennis J. Borgoños

Considering the force and speed at which an airbag deploys, it may cause some motorists to believe that they can cause serious eye injuries. But based on a Finnish study published early this year in the clinical journal of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the risk of any type of eye injury caused by airbags is very slight—only 2.5 percent. The risk for severe eye injuries is 0.4 per cent. Among all the survivors of car crashes studied where airbags were deployed, nobody lost their eyesight. The same study was also able to prove that airbag injuries do not occur more frequently among eyeglass wearers. However, the type of eye injury might be influenced. Those who were not wearing eyeglasses were more likely to suffer from injuries caused by the airbag chemicals. But open eye injuries were more likely to occur among eyeglass wearers.

The eye injuries noted in the study were mostly trivial and limited. The very fact that airbags protect the head during a collision decreases the chance of eye injuries in general. Car crash victims in accidents where airbags were absent had far more serious injuries that frequently caused permanent damage.

But remember, airbags don't work alone to save your life. The fact that they are called SRS Airbags (Supplementary Restraint System Airbags) means they complement or work with the other safety features of your vehicle. So for safety's sake, with or without airbags, the first thing you should do each time you get into your vehicle is fasten your seatbelt.

Striving...

From page C1

QB Inc. Philippines director and general manager Ferdinand Raquelsantos.

For motorists with wider girths, longer webbings are used for seatbelts.

Complementary to seatbelt

Raquelsantos said the airbag, on the other hand, is complementary and supplementary to the installed seatbelt. The airbag has a pyrotechnic element, and sets off just in time before the front passenger and driver slams on the windshield and dashboard, thereby preventing a fatal head and shoulder collision.

During the airbag's deployment, the seatbelt practically pulls you back, and the whole process would be synchronized. This means, a perfect restraint system is when the person's face and shoulder comes in contact with an already deflating airbag.

CHECKING the locking mechanism of a seatbelt.

Mixup of restraints

Without this synchronization, there are actually added dangers in using faulty restraint systems. He cited the case of used vehicles that were originally right-hand-drive vehicles converted into left hand drive. The original passenger seat on the left now becomes the driver's seat during conversion. The seatbelt on this side was not designed to prevent the driver from slamming on the steering wheel.

Assuming this side was not equipped with an airbag, the driver would now be using the original seatbelt that was meant for a front passenger. If a frontal collision occurs, the seatbelt would not "lock" before the driver's body slams the steering wheel.

Global specifications

Autoliv QB sees to it that it maintains the same standard set for seatbelts all over the world. Seatbelts' threads and parts are subjected to tests to ensure these comply to global specifications.

Raquelsantos said Autoliv achieved QS9000, which encompasses ISO9000. QS9000 is designed to meet the requirement of the big three auto manufacturers—Ford, General Motors and Chrysler—in the United States.

Seventy five percent of Autoliv Philippines' production goes to Ford Philippines' local production. Aside from seatbelts, Autoliv also supplies airbags to Ford Philippines vehicles. It supplies about 2,800 airbags a month.

Autoliv supplies around 11,000 steering wheels with airbags and 11,000 passenger airbags and a few thousand more side airbags.

Autoliv Philippines, which supplies seatbelts to 65 percent of the automotive market, also supplies its products to Toyota, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Nissan buses and Hino Trucks.

New restraints, safety systems

Pedestrian airbags, night vision systems, and the three-plus-two-point seatbelts are just some of Autoliv's research and development products due for introduction in Europe, United States, Japan and in other parts of the globe.

Head impacts on the windshield have been the top cause of pedestrian deaths. This is the reason for the pedestrian airbag.

At the front of the vehicle, on the bumper side, a sensor activates the hood to open up from the windshield side, and an airbag comes out to protect the pedestrian from hitting the windshield. Pedestrian protection will be introduced in Europe and Japan sometime in 2005.

The three-plus-two seatbelt adds another two-point to the regular three-point seatbelt. The two-point is strapped on the body but is hooked to the other side of the shoulder.

The night vision uses the infrared camera for drivers to have significantly improved vision at night. When driving at nighttime, one can easily see pedestrians. A small screen is mounted in the instrumentation panel, where the driver can see warm bodies of pedestrians detected by the heat-sensing infrared camera.

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Soriquez: Rebel with a cause

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

A BRITISH reader wrote to say that three bridges in Pangasinan have been in a state of disrepair for quite sometime now, inconveniencing motorists and putting in jeopardy the agricultural produce and other related businesses of local folk.

"The two-year-old Sapang Bridge, a temporary bridge between the towns of Aguilar and Bugallon, has been demolished by a bus, cutting off motorists coming from Tarlac on their way to Lingayen, the capital town," said London-born Rob Dix, whose poultry business "Chix Unlimited" is the biggest in Eastern Pangasinan. "All traffic now has to pass via Urbiztondo to get to Lingayen."

I know the place. To get to Lingayen from Tarlac via Urbiztondo is a circuitous route. From Camiling, Tarlac, to Lingayen is a mere 40- to 45-minute drive. But if the trip is via Urbiztondo, you will have to add another hour or so, or even maybe more, depending on traffic and road conditions.

* * *

Added Rob Dix: "Repairs of the Canatan Bridge in Mangatarem have been stopped. After DPWH people had dug up a hole approximately 2 meters x 4 meters in the bridge about a year ago, they had since abandoned the project. What's there now is a sign: 'Passable to Light Vehicles Only.' With the pouring rains, that bridge might collapse anytime."

He also cited the case of Gayaman Bridge between Binmaley and Dagupan.

"Please call the attention of Governor Agbayani and Pangasinan DPWH. You are our hope, Al," said Rob.

* * *

I am quite familiar with the bridges mentioned. In my youth, I would cross them on separate occasions on board my bike when I felt the itch to shake my legs and pedal my way to Dagupan from Mangatarem to watch a movie.

But of particular interest to me is the Canatan Bridge. I had sad memories of it and happy memories as well.

The father (Tata Jose) of my classmate (Donato Flores) died there while doing repairs in the dead of night. Back in the '60s, Canatan was a wooden bridge.

* * *

One night in 1964 (or was it 1965?), continuous rains had threatened to wash Canatan Bridge away. My departed father, who was then a DPWH foreman, had assembled his best men to include Tata Jose to make emergency repairs.

As fate would have it, a log hit Tata Jose in the head, hurling him into the gurgling waters of the river. Tata Jose would soon be dead.

My father and his men resolved to dedicate their remaining strength to the memory of Tata Jose. Turning grief into undiminished fervor, they completed the repairs and saved the bridge linking Mangatarem to Urbiztondo and the cities of San Carlos and Dagupan via Calasiao.

* * *

Years later, a young engineer from Mindoro arrived to modernize Canatan Bridge. He transformed it from wooden to concrete bridge, elevating it high from the riverbed, up from the swirling current when the monsoon and typhoon rains came.

That young man was Florante Soriquez, dashing and endowed with good looks, his hair a la James Dean, if not Elvis Presley.

Soriquez had come to the house one time upon the invitation of my father. He appealed to me as a confident person. But unlike James Dean, Soriquez struck the folk as the "rebel with a cause." He did what he had to do no matter the odds; he had unorthodox ways but always, in the end, he'd emerge triumphant. In no time, he became a folk hero. Not long after, my father, then in near retirement, told me tales of Soriquez's gallantry. He said that if the townspeople had erected a monument then in Soriquez's honor, it would have been justified. The concretized Canatan Bridge was but one of his many legacies in our district.

* * *

That Soriquez of my youth is the same Soriquez now serving as the acting public works secretary.

He is now being pummeled left and right by critics whose only aim is so obvious any man in the street would know the motive behind the mudslinging: They want him out of his post because Soriquez is proving to be the No. 1 enemy of unscrupulous persons operating from both within and outside of the DPWH. Already, he has ordered a lifestyle check on the department's top brass. To give backbone to his order, he has included himself as transparency has always been the hallmark of his tenure.

Upon his assumption of office only last May, Soriquez immediately outlined his four priorities: 1) Emphasis on work quality; 2) Hands-on attitude on ongoing projects; 3) Transparency; and, 4) Upgrading of information technology.

* * *

Name me a Cabinet member who has energetically pursued computerization of his department and I bet you, Soriquez stands out in this area. He said: "Through computerization, the public can now access information on what's going on at the DPWH, including pertinent facts like the case of unpaid contractors."

He has been cleared of administrative charges filed in 1997 as per the Ombudsman ruling excluding him from the list of respondents that included former public works secretary Gregorio Vigilar. The case stemmed from the Mt. Pinatubo-inspired dikes they had built, which collapsed partially not long after. A criminal case is pending against Soriquez allegedly on the faulty design of the dike.

Said Soriquez: "I am not a designer and so I followed the design submitted to me by experts, including those from the University of the Philippines. I am staying on pending a final resolution by the Sandiganbayan but, more importantly, I am here in accordance with the wishes of the President. All my life, I have always been a good and an obedient soldier. All my life, I have fought my battles well, no matter the odds."

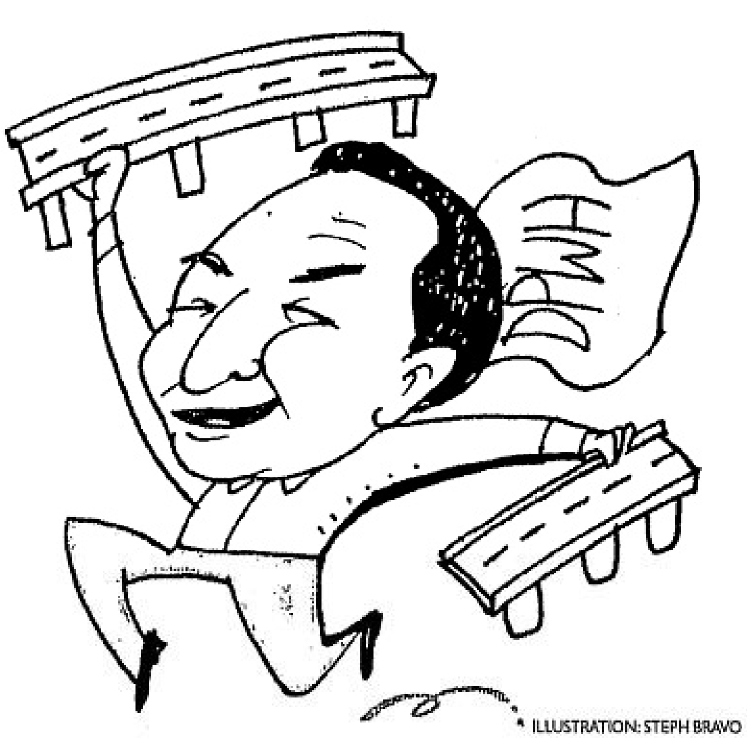


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

I know that. I also know that Soriquez, as what my father told me, has, like James Dean, never run away from a fight. Especially if that fight is for a cause, such as the one he is facing now.

Here's a glass to the rebel with a cause, who, I am sure will order the immediate repair of the bridges of my youth, particularly Canatan Bridge. I am even tempted to have the bridge renamed Soriquez Bridge after it gets repaired.

Do I hear an objection?

* * *

QUOTE ME. Roads and bridges are what define a government servant.

He has continued to adhere to the highest tenet of public service, which is service to the people no matter who gets hurt when in the "performance of my duties."

Soriquez is now traversing some turbulence but he is undaunted.

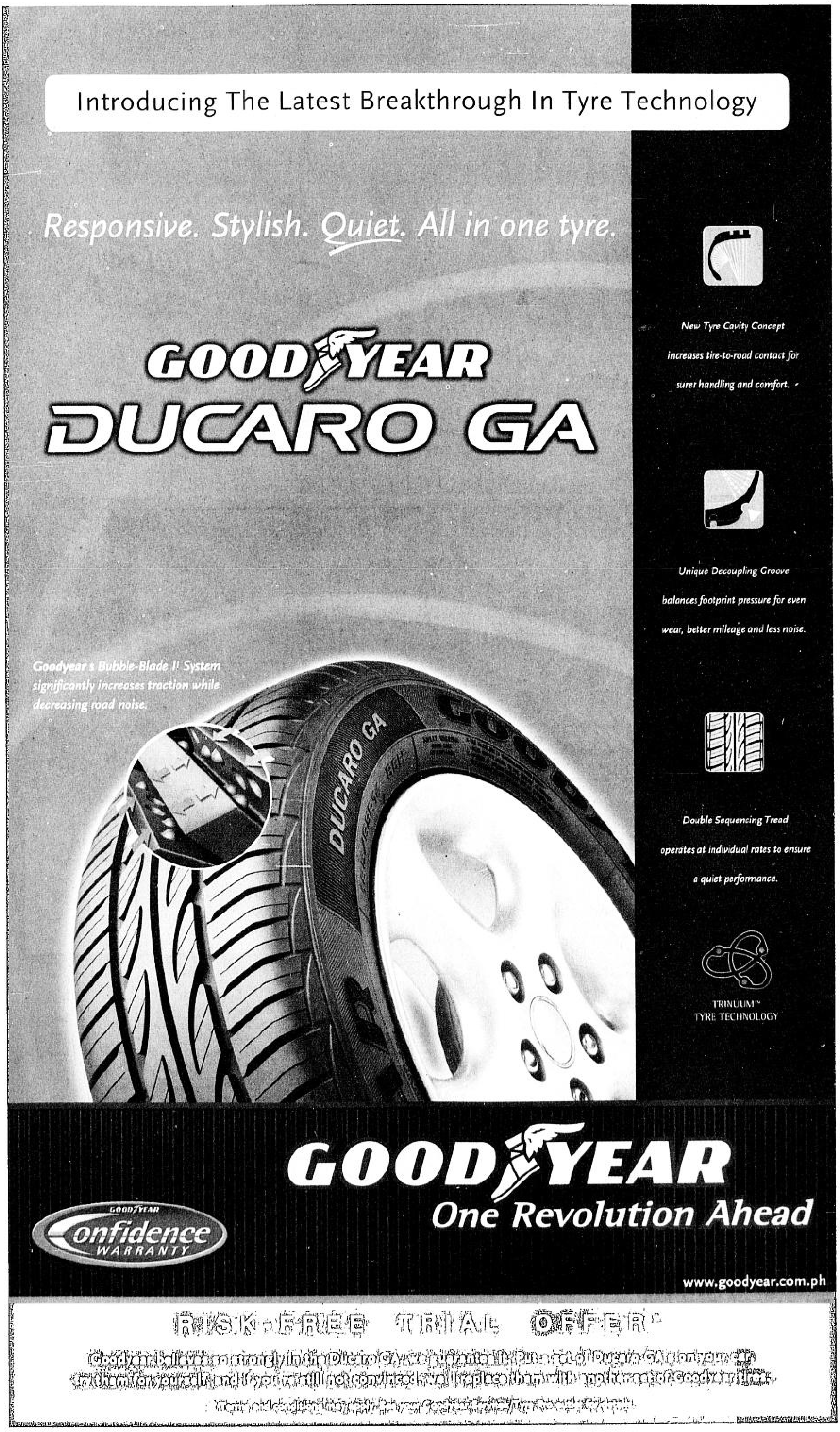
Rev up your car at Ace Hardware

VISITING Ace Hardware this month will even be more exciting for car enthusiasts with its Rev Up Your Car promotion.

Ace, after all, not only has a wide range of products for do-it-yourself (DIY) enthusiasts, but also an exciting line of automobile products ranging from accessories to car care items. And the good news is that every P300 single or accumulated purchase of an Ace product at any Ace Hardware branch entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of the 14 Alpine car stereos.

Here are some car care tips to rev you up:

- Don't make wet surface smell worse by soaking the entire area and spreading it deeper and deeper. Instead, just use enough of the cleaner to kill the mold and mildew and deodorize your car.
- Always deodorize the heat/vent/air-conditioning (VAC) system to keep your car smelling fresh.
- For perfectly clean windows, use newspaper and a good cleaner—a mixture of distilled water, a bit of ammonia and denatured alcohol.
- Polish first before you wax. Polishing is how your car gets to shine—waxing is what protects that shine.
- Make sure you check all your lights regularly.
- Tired tires? Proper inflation, alignment and balance will extend tire life.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Small scooter driver outruns others in bike challenge

By Charles E. Buban

RACING isn't just about speed or fast time (although both are nice on occasions), sometimes it's also about timely braking and calculated turns.

It's what rider Tomas Teodoro Delgado showed off when he rode with his small scooter and captured the 2nd Shell Scooter King Challenge last Saturday in Dumaguete City, Negros Occidental.

So surprising was the fact that Delgado's Geely 100cc was the only true-blue scooter among the field as the rest of the participants (429 of them) rode on their much bigger mopeds or traditional motorcycles.

Delgado finished the course in 88 seconds—just four seconds faster than the runner-up but enough to win him the race.

Proper riding manners

"It's not just about speed, you have to drive smoothly so you will prevent errors," said the 37-year-old burger stand owner from Guihulngan, Negros Oriental who still could not believe having won the race.

"The Shell Scooter King Challenge was conceived to develop proper riding habits among our motorcycle riders," according to Lito Dulce of Race Motorsports, the event's organizer.

Participants were required to wear helmets as well as protective gears when they negotiate a series of obstacles that test how well they can follow road instructions like stopping on a pedestrian lane marking or dodging pylons.

For every errors made, corresponding seconds were deducted to the rider's total time.

P6,000 richer

For winning the challenge, Delgado went home with the race's P6,000 top prize and a trophy.

Delgado learned to ride motorcycles when he was still in Grade 2, mentored by his father who loves big bikes.

Dulce even remembered Delgado being one of the earliest participants who arrived in that prerace clinic held in the morning of Saturday.

"He was asking questions throughout the duration of the seminar, so it was no surprise to us that he rode for the challenge prepared," Dulce said.

Motorcycle capital

Dumaguete is the undisputed motorcycle capital of the country, a reason the organizer regularly holds such events in that city.

This city of 18,000 households has more than 30,000 registered solo-ride motorcycles and almost 5,000 registered tricycles (known locally as pedicabs), related Dulce.

He clarified that although the event was called Scooter King Challenge, the entry of motorcycles is not limited to scooters.

Most popular

"Cub motorcycles or our modern-day mopeds are the most popular form of transportation here in Dumaguete, one reason we decided to hold this event," he explained.

The event has attracted riders from all ages, male or female, like 48-year-old Melly Romanillos, a factory supervisor who spent her day off by joining the event.

Apart from holding motorcycle races, Shell has also announced it will sponsor another grassroot motorsports event, called the Jeepney King Challenge to be held in Bacolod City.

AUTOFILES

Toyota tops cars, commercial vehicles sales

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. last month registered its highest sales output in five years.

Based on the latest figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), Toyota is on top for the seventh straight month this year by selling a total of 2,638 vehicles in July, posting an increase of 20 percent from the previous month.

Toyota's total sales for the year has already surpassed the 15,000 mark with sales of 15,721 registering a growth of 13 percent from last year, keeping the company on top of market sales. Toyota also registered the highest sales output in the passenger car and commercial vehicle categories in July, achieving a total market share of 31 percent.

Customers can continue to take advantage of the special financing packages available for all Toyota vehicles courtesy of its financial arm, Toyota Financing Services (TFS). For this month, TMP and TFS are offering a special promo for the RAV4 4x4 and RAV4 SV 4x2 models. Low monthly payments and zero-interest plans are being offered for these sports-utility models until the end of the month.

Isuzu vehicle prices to go up

ISUZU Philippines Corp. announces impending price increases on some of its products due to the implementation of Revenue Regulation 4-2003.

Affected models will be the Isuzu Trooper and the Hi-Lander Crosswind with price increases of approximately 50 percent. For the Trooper, the new tax translates to a P781,000 price increase, or a new price tag of P2,350,000 from its current price of P1,569,000.

The selling price of Crosswind's entry-level variant XL will increase from P665,000 to P1,000,000 while the top-of-the-line variant XUVi A/T will go from P934,000 to P1,450,000.

To give its customers the chance to avail of their dream Isuzu vehicles at current prices, Isuzu Philippines is holding off any price increase resulting from foreign currency fluctuation until Sept. 9 and is assuring the buying public of enough available stocks.

For more information, call up the corporate affairs department at (02) 729-7797

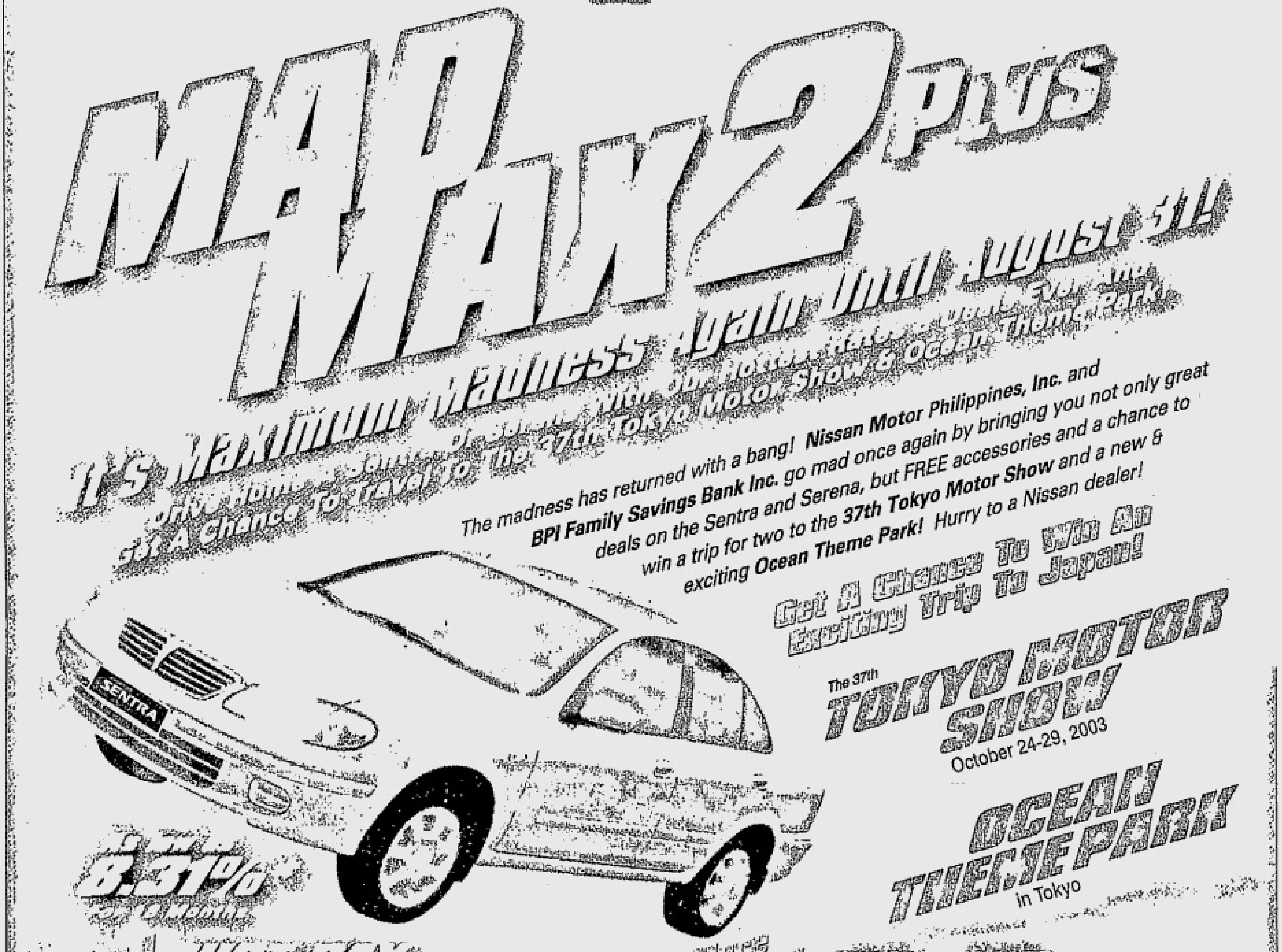
BMW at P253,500

PRESTIGE Cars Makati is making it easy to own a BMW with its low down payment offer of only 15 percent. That translates to only P253,500 down payment for a BMW 316.

You can also try the zero-interest plan, low monthly payments, balloon payments and terms of up to five years. Choose from the sporty 3 Series sedan variants to the X5. Other variants are the 5 Series models, the Z4 and the exclusive 7 Series.

Prestige Cars BMW also offers BMW Certified Preowned vehicles and accepts trade-ins. It is located on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) Extension, the Makati Automotive Row.

NISSAN BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK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MAD MAX 2 PLUS RAFFLE MECHANICS

1) Cash buyers who purchase any of the participating vehicles from August 09, 2003 to August 31, 2003 will automatically be given a raffle coupon. One raffle coupon per vehicle.
2) The raffle is also applicable to customers who purchase the vehicle through any of the available financing schemes using auto car loans. They will be given their raffle coupon as soon as the loan has been approved and the vehicle released. The raffle stub will come from the Nissan outlet where they purchased the vehicle.
3) Customers must fill out all details necessary in the raffle coupon (name, address, telephone number, signature affixed, dealer name, vehicle purchased, date of purchase).
4) Raffle coupons will be dropped in designated drop boxes, located at all Nissan Dealers.
5) The name that appears on the winning raffle coupon shall be declared the winner.
6) Cut-off date for dropping of entries will be close of office hours on September 05, 2003.
7) All coupons will be gathered by NMPI representatives and placed in a major tambiolo to be witnessed by a DTI representative.
8) A draw supervised by a DTI representative will be held on September 10, 2003 (2:00 PM) at the NMPI Technopark in Sta. Rosa Laguna.
9) One winner will be drawn to win a trip for two (2) to the Tokyo Motor Show in Japan and a tour to Tokyo Disney Sea. Package includes: Airfare for two (2); Hotel accommodation for four (4) days and three (3) nights; Pocket money (US $400); Two (2) tickets to Tokyo Motor Show; Two (2) tickets to Disney Sea; Half-day Tokyo City Tour.
10) Winner will be notified by registered mail and via phone.
11) NMPI will shoulder all taxes for the trip and the 20% prize tax. All other documentation required for the trip will be for the account of the winner.
12) The winner's name will be published in a newspaper of general circulation 10 days after the raffle. The trip will be held tentatively from October 24 to 26, 2003. The prize is transferable but not convertible to cash.
13) If the prize remains unclaimed for a period of 6 months from the date of notification, it will be forfeited in favor of NMPI, with the concurrence of the DTI.
14) If a winner wasn't able to process his documents within the scheduled date of the trip, he is still entitled to avail of the prize minus the tickets to the Tokyo Motor Show, provided it is still within the 6 month period from the date of claim.
15) All decisions pertaining to the raffle promo made by NMPI with DTI concurrence shall be deemed final and non-appealable.
16) Promotional deals are not valid with other corporate, dealer, fleet, and other special deals.
17) NMPI employees, its dealers, advertising agencies, and their relatives are excluded from this promotion.
18) The trip prize can be claimed at NMPI Technopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna upon presentation of two (2) valid IDs and the registered mail.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3388, series of 2003

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GO TO PAGE A3

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Thai Cooking 101

Learn the nuts and bolts of Siamese cuisine in the comforts of a resort hotel or spa

BANANA Blossom Salad with Prawns is one of the things students will learn at Lanna Cooking School.

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

THERE is no better place to learn the secrets of authentic Thai cooking than Thailand itself. Thais have preserved their culinary culture beautifully, and they unselfishly share their fascinating cuisine.

One of the world's most delicious, Thai food has fresh, explosive tastes. It is basically "chili hot" with subtle additions of roots, grasses and aromatic herbs like sweet basil, mint and *galangal* (with a ginger-peppery taste) to enhance the flavor.

Thai food combines several Eastern cuisines: spicy Szechuan Chinese, tropical Malaysian, creamy coconut sauces of south India and aromatic spices of Arabia.

Since food is one of the pleasures of visiting Thailand, several restaurants and hotels are offering cooking lessons to guests. Students get hands-on experience in a Thai kitchen and learn about herbs and spices and their alternatives.

As part of the lessons, students visit colorful markets to sample, select and assist in the purchase of fresh ingredients.

Lanna cooking class

At Lanna Cooking School, food lovers learn the art of northern Thai cooking.

According to Pitak Srichan, resident chef of Lanna, northern food is less spicy than central and southern cooking. It uses less oil and coconut milk but more herbs and spices. The northerners prefer chicken and pork to beef.

Lanna is the first Thai cooking school opened by The Regent Chiang Mai Resort and Spa, a property of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, and about an hour's flight from Bangkok.

Chef Srichan, who speaks fairly good English, handles the interactive course. From Monday to Saturday, participants go on a culinary adventure, from spicy salads, traditional soups and noodles to savory rice and sweet desserts, curries and tasty vegetarian meals.

Lanna is well-equipped and beautifully designed, set amid extensively landscaped gardens with towering bamboo, teak and banyan trees, and a waterfall nearby. The open-air demo pavilion has rich timber floors, a high-buttressed ceiling, rustic hammered hoods, weathered chandeliers, overhead fans and huge sliding doors. There is a large cooking area for the chef and eight individual stations suitable for one or two persons, a large teak working table and chairs for participants.

The kitchen area has colorful displays of bottled Thai sauces, dry food products and condiments. The dining pavilion features a long hardwood table where students taste dishes prepared in class.

"I usually do the cooking first, then the students follow what I did in their own cooking stations," says Srichan. "After cooking, we give the students time to savor the food they prepared."

Interestingly, before cooking begins, Srichan or one of his assistants leads the students in prayer and offering to a "spirit house" beside the pavilion. The offering consists of chicken or a pig's head and fruits and sweets. Spirit houses are small, birdhouse-like structures that are *de rigueur* in Thai homes and buildings. They are supposed to protect and ensure success.

After the offering, Srichan begins his class with a demonstration of traditional Thai utensils and kitchen tools, such as brass wok, pots and steamer. Then he familiarizes the students with Thai herbs and spices.

Students also learn fruit and vegetable carving and tour the resort's own herbs and spice garden to acquaint themselves with essential ingredients such as lemon grass, ginger, turmeric and chili.

At the end of the lessons, students get a copy of the recipes, a cooking class apron and a cer-

THAI/D2

onstage 2nyt
Cowboy Grill

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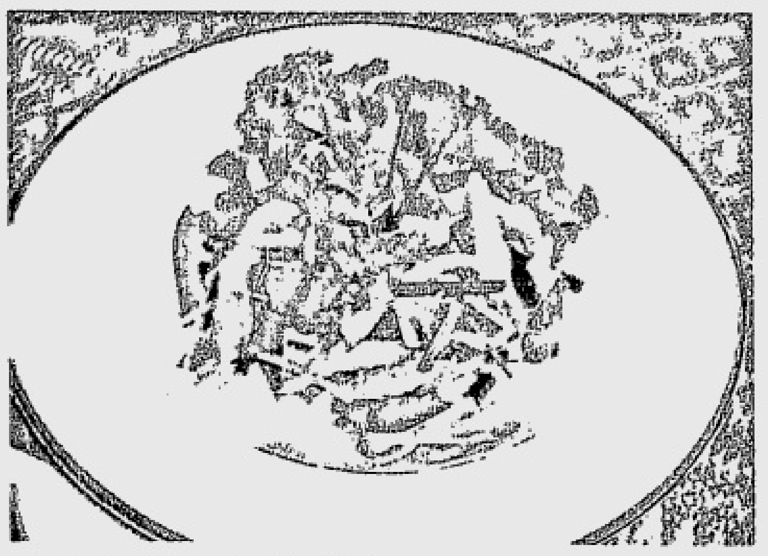
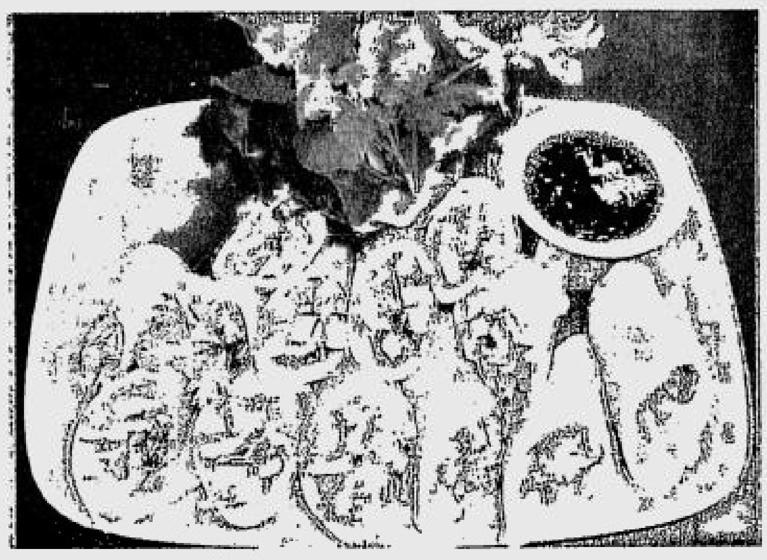
SPICY Pork Salad

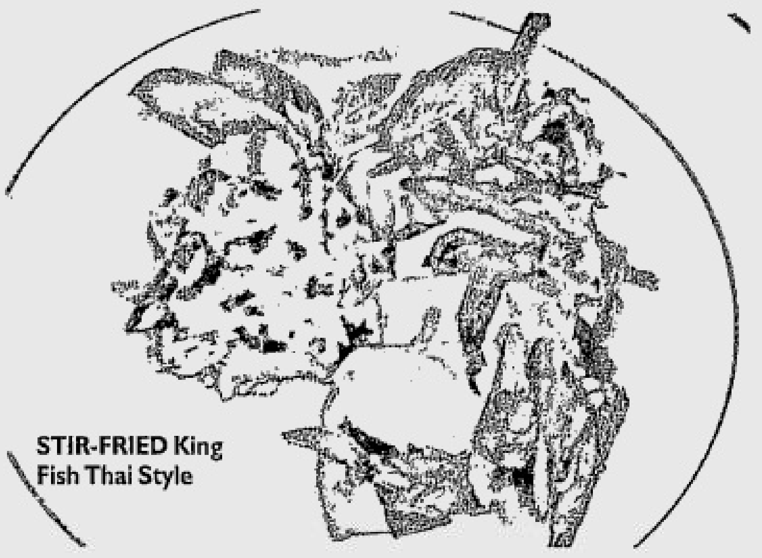
CHEF Pitak Srichan of Lanna Cooking School

CHEF Kuttiya Nimcean of Chiva-Som International Health Resort


CHIVA-SOM Thai Chicken Salad

Thai Cooking 101


FRESH Noodle Roll


STIR-FRIED King Fish Thai Style

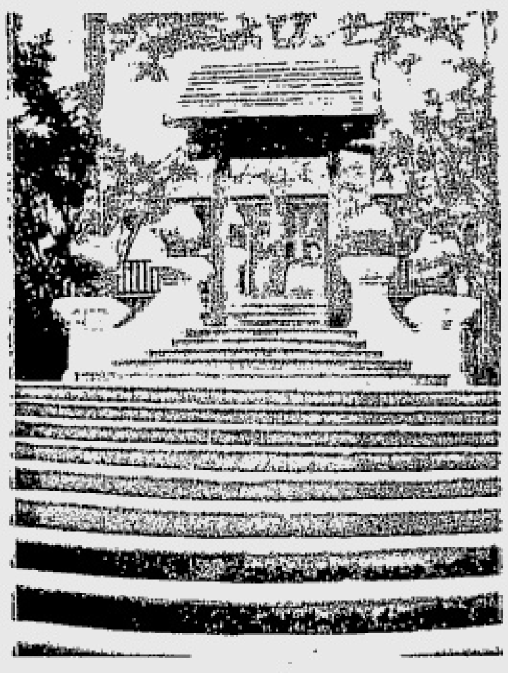
From page D1

tificate.

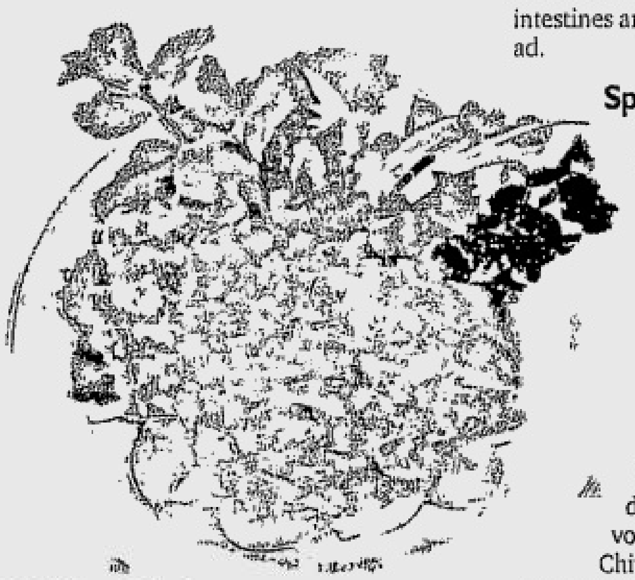
Our group of visiting Filipino journalists tried our hands in preparing spicy Thai salads. They are quite easy to make but hard to do at home because the ingredients, such as *galangal*, palm sugar and coriander root are hard to find in the Philippines. Besides, the Narm Pla, the Thai fish sauce that helps brings out the finer flavors of the other ingredients, must be imported.

Under the supervision of Srichan, we prepared the Spicy Beef Salad (Yum Nua), a filling starter. The spicy dressing consists of the juice of coriander root and pickled garlic blended with mushroom soya sauce, sugar, lime juice and three pieces of bird's eye chilli. It is then mixed with grilled sirloin beef.

The Fresh Noodle Roll (Kuey Tiew Lord) is fresh *lumpia* with a twist. Strips of cucumber, chicken, omelet, lettuce, bean sprouts and coriander sprigs are wrapped in flat rice noodles. The secret is in the sauce, a mix of tamarind juice, palm sugar, chili sauce, sesame oil, sesame seed and oyster sauce.


AN IMPOSING stone staircase leads to the demonstration and dining pavilions of Lanna

It's amazing how the Thais have been able to extract the flavors from seeds, pods and leaves. The Spicy Pork Salad (Larb Muang) is an example. Thai coriander, Vietnamese mint and green beans are mixed with stir-fried pork liver, skin, intestines and heart for a fragrant and tasty salad.


SPICY Beef Salad

Spa cuisine

At Chiva-Som International Health Resort, spa cuisine is the specialty.

"We all know how important a low-fat, balanced diet is for our health, weight and well-being," says Kuttiya Nimcean, Chiva-Som executive sous chef. "Here we teach our students how to cook a healthy meal."

Nimcean has more than nine years' experience in preparing delicious spa cuisine. She teaches students how to create healthy but flavorful dishes.

Chiva-Som dismisses the notion that diet and good nutrition mean uninspiring food. "(In our) spa cuisine... moderation should be in the ingredients, not in the flavor," says Nimcean. "We design each menu to offer the widest range of dishes to suit a healthy lifestyle while satisfying the appetite for great-tasting dishes. We include the tenderest steaks, the tastiest lamb, the softest chicken, the most delicate fish, the freshest vegetables, combining them with local herbs and spices."

LANNA Cooking School offers an exciting interactive curriculum that makes for an unforgettable culinary experience.

DIGITAL PHOTOS BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES WERE TAKEN USING FUJI FINEPIX F401

Chiva-Som uses produce from its own organic garden. Its cuisine has won international awards (notably the Conde Nast Award for Best Spa Cuisine).

The spa cooking class teaches students how to use salt, fats and heavy sauces in moderation and how to adapt classical techniques to lighter and healthier alternatives.

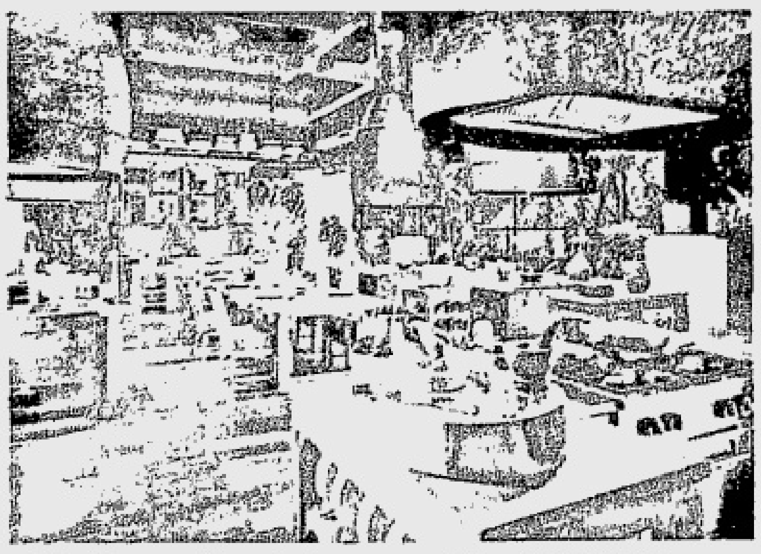
Guests learn how to prepare different dishes like vegetable stock, Thai chicken salad, cucumber and egg soup, steamed fillet of snapper with aromatic vegetables and Thai red beef curry.

Each two-hour-30-minute class has no more than 16 persons. Students get a book of low-fat recipes, an apron and a certificate.

So, if you love eating at Thai restaurants and can't quite create that authentic Thai dish at home, how about joining a cookery class the next time you make a holiday tour of Thailand?

The visit to cooking schools was part of the Lifestyle Asia Spa Tour sponsored by The Lifestyle Asia Annual Traveler, a publication of Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc., in cooperation with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Chiva-Som International Resort and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). Call TAT Philippines at 9111660 and 4375837. The Lifestyle Asia Annual Traveler's maiden issue will be out in March 2004. Call Joyce Ramirez at 6312859.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.pm


THE LANNA demonstration pavilion features rich timber floors, a high buttressed ceiling, rustic hammered hoods and eight individual stations for students.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-438 Series 2003

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Before P 1,200/kl NOW P600/kl
LIVE CRABS
Fried w/ Salt & Pepper or Steamed
Before P 900/kl NOW P500/kl
BIG PRAWNS
Baked w/ superior sauce or Steamed w/ Garlic (min. of 4 pcs.)
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Dorothy Ferreria offers courses for home bakers and hobbyists

DOROTHY Ferreria of Dorothy's Cooking School is offering new courses this month for home bakers and hobbyists for the coming Yuletide season.

These courses are: Cakes for the Holidays (Aug. 21)—Amaretto Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake 2, Cinnamon Bubble Loaf in Miniature, Banana Rum Cake, Orange Poppy Seed Pound Cake plus costing and packaging.

Half a Dozen Cookies (Aug. 23)—Buttery English Shortbread, Coffee Flavored Shortbread, Oatmeal Drop Cookies, Sesame Cookies, Almond Cookies, Drunken Fruit Bars plus costing and packaging.

All Dressed Up For Dinner (Aug. 26)—Tossed Greens with Fruity Black Pepper Dressing, Dressed Up Clear Soup, Baked Clams and Mussels with Assorted

Toppings, Roast Chicken with Lemon and Herbs, Hawaiian French Cut Roast Porkloin, Party Fish Salad, Green Rice, Mini Decadent Cake with all the Trimmings.

Simbang Gabi (Aug. 28.)—Royal Bibingka with Salted Eggs and Cottage Cheese, Cassava Bibingka, Baked Open Faced Pandesal with Assorted Toppings, Suman with Mangoes and Homemade Matamis na Bao, Hot Chocolate Drink and Green Tea Shake.

Kakanin Atbp., featuring *suman sa lihiya*, *biko*, *haleyang ube*, cheese *pichi-pichi* and cassava *bibingka* will have a repeat on Aug. 19 while Chicken on the Menu featuring roast chicken with apples, chicken roulade, chicken mole, chicken *kare-kare* and char-grilled chicken wings with green papaya salad will have a repeat on Aug. 30.

Dorothy's Cooking School is located at 48 Third Street, New Manila, Quezon City. Call 7217735.

Shrinking canned goods

Many supermarket items weigh less than what their packages say

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

AND I thought I was the only one griping about the decreasing pieces of tuna and sausages in cans. Packaged fruits and vegetables at your favorite grocer may weigh less than what is listed on the packages, too. A vigilant consumer called our attention to this recently.

This frequent shopper reported that some pre-packed fruits and vegetables sold by a wholesaler-retailer in Fort Bonifacio were 10 to 20 grams less than their supposed weights. She said she had to use the scale and weigh several packages to get the pack with the correct weight.

"I have called the attention of the supervisors several times over the last three months. They always pass the blame to the suppliers who, they said, were the ones who packed the merchandise. I dropped a complaint in their suggestion box and promptly got a call from their customer service. They were nice about it. Unfortunately, the packs of fruits and vegetables are still short of weight," the frequent shopper complained.

Same candy, different prices

Here's why the same chocolate bar is priced differently in two stores at SM Megamall. Customer Rina Sibal bought at the supermarket four bars of Nestlé Crunch at P22.50 each. The following day, she purchased the same items at the Toy Kingdom (TK), but was surprised that each bar cost P34.75. She inquired about the price difference and got this explanation from the woman at the counter:

"The candy stall that sells the chocolate bars is a rent-paying consignee (and they) put the tag price on the items for sale. Although sales are punched into the TK cash register, TK management has no control over the candy bars' tag price."

Overstrict security guards

A couple with a baby refused to leave their baby's knapsack with the guard of a big supermarket chain. As the family moved from aisle to aisle, a uniformed woman followed them. Distressed and disturbed, the couple decided that wife, baby and *yaya* would just wait at the center aisle while husband did the shopping. As she stood there, the wife overheard a female voice on the radio instructing the guard to "eyeball the woman with the knapsack."

"They treated us like we were shoplifters! We complained to the store manager and followed this up with a call when we got home. The store manager told us that her supervisor had already given her instructions to submit an incident report, and from there they will decide what to do next."

Troublesome 'Rolex'

A PDI reader wrote about the fake Rolex watch he bought at the Greenhills *tiangge*. A few weeks later, the watch would stop every so often, only running again after a vigorous shaking. He said he brought the watch to a repair shop at Pioneer supermarket. The shop could not repair the watch and refunded the P850 he deposited. A second repair shop tried to fix the problem and charged him P750. Three days later, the watch stopped running. It has been in and out of the same shop, and the problem remains.

"It works three days, then stops while I am asleep. This happens at 2 or 3 a.m., and I don't get a chance to start it again until 6 or 7 a.m. by which time it is 4 or 5 hours late. And I thought an automatic watch should function continuously day after day… year after year without stopping. I just want to get my money back."

(We called the repair shop. Here's their explanation: "We've monitored the watch and ran it through the automatic tester and vibrograph. We found that there was nothing wrong with it. However, it requires a regular swinging movement of the hand and wrist to keep the mechanism fully winded. The owner, unfortunately, is a senior citizen whose wrist movement has been impaired."

A. M. Dayo saved his allowance to buy an Alpha AQIPB (genuine) from the Technomarine store in Greenbelt. A month later, the watch malfunctioned. He had it repaired at Raphael's Jewelry store in Shangri-La Plaza. The battery was changed.

However, there were functions that were no longer available. "I decided to bring the watch back to the store for a replacement but the same model was not available. It's been one month and I am tired of waiting. I just want my money back." (Dayo wrote the other day that the store refunded his money.)

BPI responds to complaint

This is the response of BPI to questions raised in this column last week. "Can a credit card company make a bank withhold the funds of a depositor pending settlement of the depositor's unpaid bills? Isn't the bank supposed to inform its depositor before freezing an account?"

BPI explains: "Putting on hold the bank deposit of a credit card holder is a reasonable and protective measure that can be taken by any bank lender to collect its past due credit card receivables. This action is based on the terms and conditions governing the issuance and use of the card, signed by the cardholder. The client is notified that the deposit fund is on hold by letter or telegram.

"But before resorting to this course of action, it is standard procedure for the card company to send collection letters and telegrams to the client. In addition, telephone calls to follow up payment are also done by the card company.

"If the client cannot settle the full amount due, the client can opt for a payment arrangement. The client has the option to pay just the minimum five percent of the bill. If the cardholder still fails to settle the payment due for valid reasons, they are allowed extension of the payment terms and adjustments in the monthly payments."

E-mail consumer complaints and comments to mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

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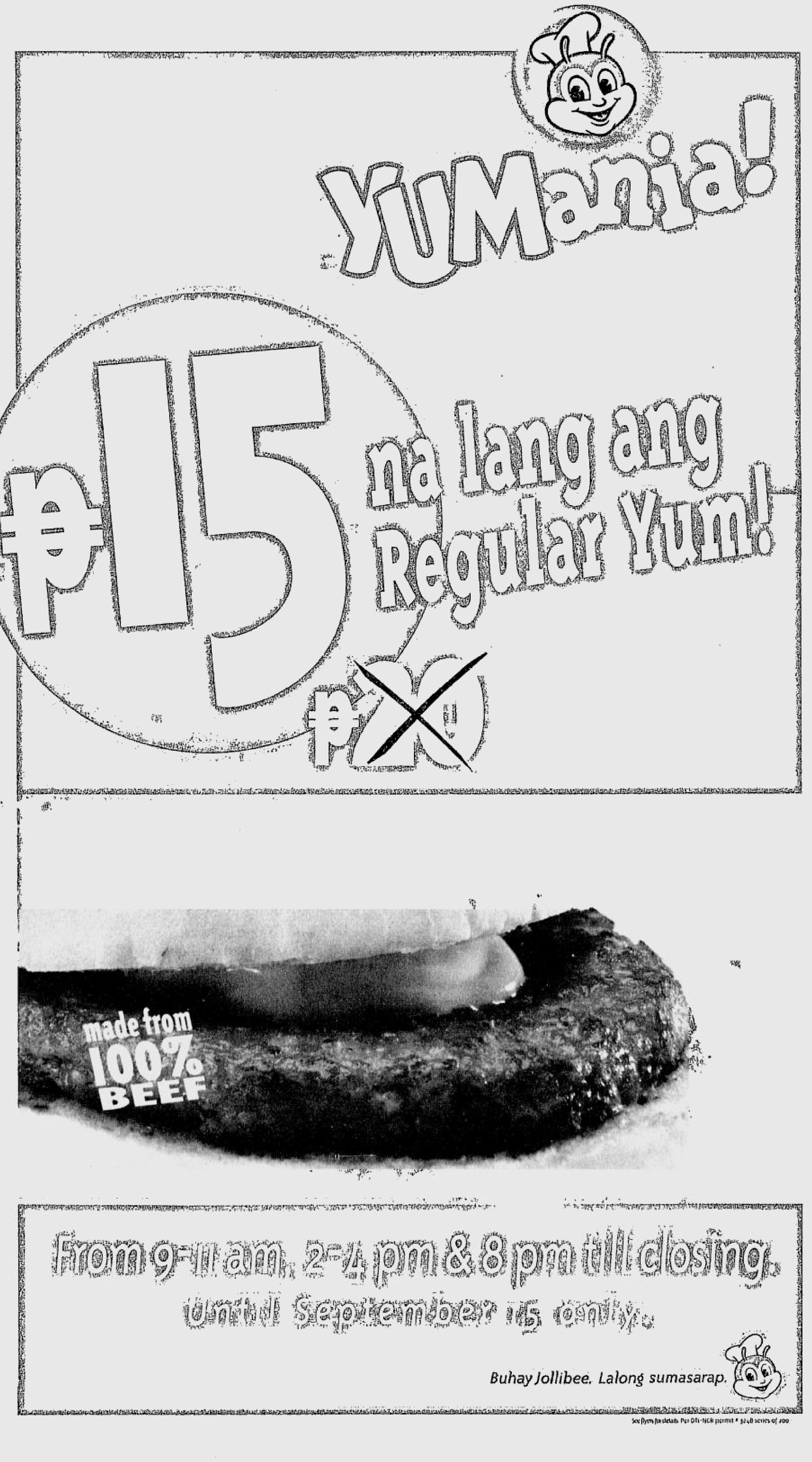
Foodservers training set

A BASIC Foodservers Training has been set by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) on Aug. 25-29, 1-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, 2nd Level Eastwood CityWalk, Eastood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Registration and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis, call 787-6370 and 0916-8226053. Only 20 participants will be accommodated. Seminar fee is P2,200 per participant inclusive of handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment. The course is open to those who will pursue a food service career here and abroad and those who are engaged in a food service business such as hotels, restaurants, resorts, catering and canteens. The training features hands-on workshops in table setting, service, napkin folding and table skirting. Topics also include food service behavior, personality and grooming, menu familiarization and merchandising, customer relations and hygiene and sanitation. Trainers are food service consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division on Chefs on Parade.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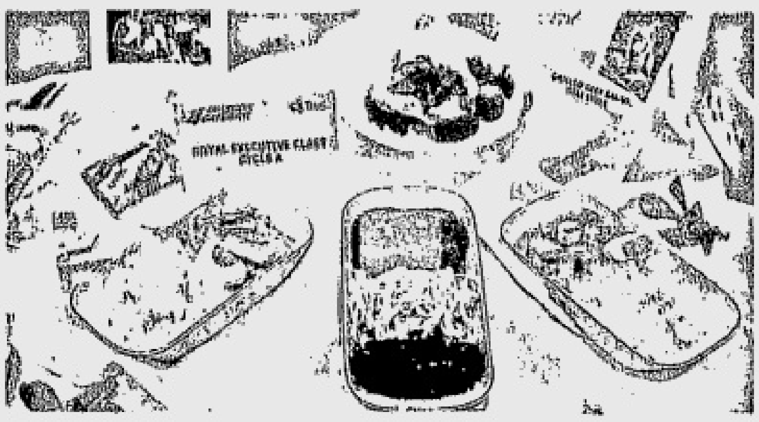
Airline food flies high

Text by Jasmine W. Payo
Photos by Roger Margallo


ROYAL Executive Class, Cycle A consists of Grilled Beef Salad Thai Style, Prawns Chu Chee and Chicken Roulade Hamonado Wifredo Style

THERE is perhaps no meal more maligned than airline food. Ranked poorly on any list of culinary pleasures, it has acquired a notorious rep for being tasteless and colorless.

While it's true that some airlines still serve those "mystery" meals covered in gravy, others have been more conscientious with the quality of food they serve.

According to Chertchai Methanayanonda, Thai Airways general manager for Philippines and Guam, airline food should be a great part of a passenger's flight experience. "The number one concern is, of course, safety. But next is service, and that includes the meals," he says.

Although most passengers still eat anything served to them, Thai Airways puts extra effort in constantly improving its menu. Since Aug. 1, Thailand's national carrier has been offering new sets of in-flight meals.

Formidable team

Thai Airways now offers six types of in-flight menu. Given the six-set cycle, each menu will only be served four times a year.

Providing the airline catering services is Miascor Catering. "We'll be changing our menu every 15 days so passengers who are frequent flyers won't be encountering the same food. We also coordinate with inbound flight so the food will be different," says Stephen Gervais, Miascor's general manager.

Miascor's top chefs are in charge of whipping up the airline's tray table treats. The formidable team is composed of senior sous chef Randy Miravalles, product manager chef Georges Egli, chef de partie Geomel Santos and Gate Gourmet sous chef Harit Vejakul.

Aside from Thai Airways, Miascor serves eight other airlines. Gervais says they always work closely with their clients. With Thai Airways, each item on the menu was meticulously planned and well chosen.

"We decided with Thai Airways on the meals. We gave suggestions, they gave suggestions. We tasted, looked and made sure it's what Thai Airways wants."

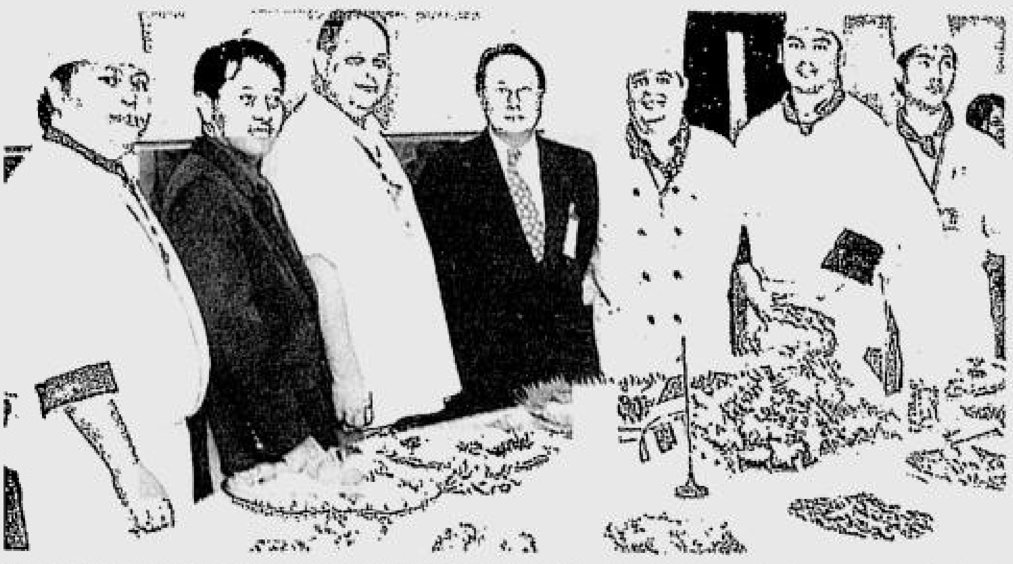
Gervais describes the six new menus as "authentic Thai and authentic Filipino food." Notable among the appetizers are the Seafood Salad Thai Style and the Thai Noodle Salad.

For the entrée, chef Vejakul recommends the Thai Seafood Soufflé (mixed seafood soufflé baked with thick curry and coconut milk). "This one is authentic Thai. There's really a technique in preparing it," he says.

Other must-trys are the Eel Kabayaki (grilled eel), Chicken Musaman (chicken with potatoes in curry paste), Roast Duck Curry, Stir Fried Pork with Basil, Smoked Salmon and Chicken Terrine, Chicken Roulade Hamonado Wifredo Style, Pork in Red Curry Thai Style and Grilled Beef Medallion with Pink Peppercorn.

Despite the profusion of fancy food, Thai Airways' general manager says no meal is still complete without the Asian staple. "The most important thing is the rice. We only use Thai Hom Mali rice," says Methanayanonda.

CHEF Randy Miravalles presents some of Thai Airways' yummy treats.


MIASCOR Catering's senior sous chef Randy Miravalles, Thai Airways station manager Jackrit Roithana, Miascor's general manager Stephen Gervais, Thai Airways general manager for Philippines and Guam Chertchai Methanayanonda, product manager chef Georges Egli, chef de partie Geomel Santos and Gate Gourmet sous chef Harit Vejakul

Thai Airways' new menu proves that in-flight cuisine need not be bland and generic

ECONOMY Class, Cycle C features Papaya and Minced Pork Salad, Soy Garlic Bangus and Mango Flan with Mango Sauce

For dessert, there are fresh fruits and yummy sweets such as the Walnut Layer Cake and Mango Flan with Mango Sauce.

White wine, red wine and champagne are also served.

Pleasant surprise

Gervais promises that each of Thai Asia's six menus will be an adventure for the palate. "When you taste Thai food, your tastebuds are tantalized. You experience the various principles of taste—sweet, sour, salty and spicy," he says.

But more than just tummy-fillers for weary travelers, the meals serve as visual treats as well. Food servings are always presented attractively on white china with silver cutlery and purple linen.

"[With] Thai cuisine,, aside from being tasty, you see the detailed aspects of the food. Like for the fresh fruits, they're presented as fruit carvings," says Gervais.

Thai Airways even reveals a pleasant surprise—you need not travel first-class to get a taste of its gastronomic delights. The six menus are being served in both the Business and Economy classes.

"We offer similar meals in the Royal Executive (Business) and Economy. The only difference is in variety and proportions. Thai Airways believes that all its passengers should be able to taste these meals," explains Gervais.

Apart from the regular menu, Gervais says Thai Airways also offers alternative food for passengers who have medically-prescribed diets and religious restrictions.

"We provide special meals for people with diabetes, heart conditions or have lacto-ovo intolerance. We also have meals for religious regions like Muslims and Buddhist."

Indeed, with a touch of ingenuity, Thai Airways and Miascor Catering show that airline food need not be bland and generic. In fact, it's something passengers can look forward to whenever they fly.

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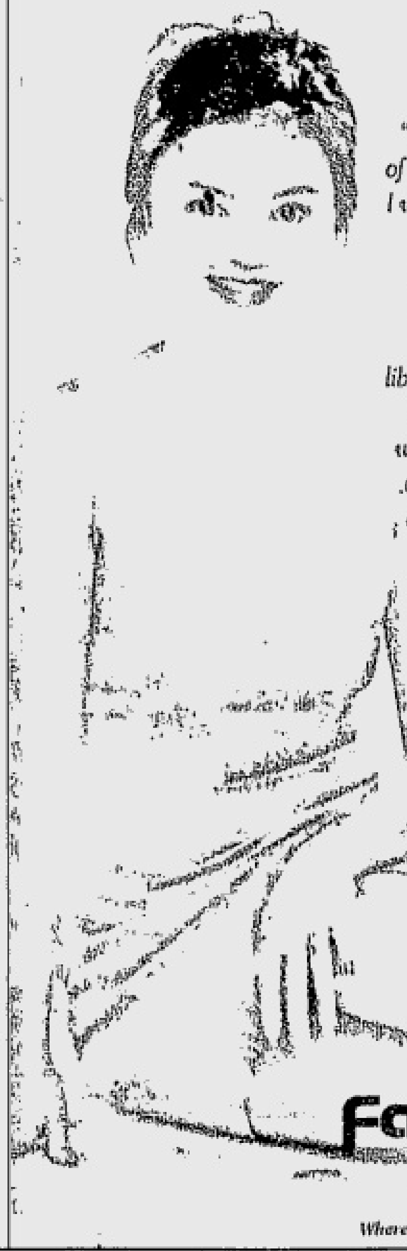
MON.- FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)



Vangie's American pig

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

THE JOYFUL Cook was dipping fresh roses and their leaves covered with beaten egg white into fine, granulated sugar. She would use it to decorate a chiffon cake for Maria Calina's 18th birthday that evening. The staff was absorbed with turning the living room and dining room into a picture of elegance rather than a pretty setting of sugar, spice and everything nice. The staid tree trunks holding up the roof were entwined with white and moss green velvet ribbon that anchored bouquets of silk roses in white and hues of red and pink. The following week, the deb would have a coming out party at a five-star hotel in the capital where she resided. The evening's affair was meant to be an intimate prelude so she could practice her waltzing and enjoy the family in a special way.

Vangie's menu

"You're getting carried away again," shouted St. Sandok, the antique talking spoon TJC had inherited from her Lola Uning. He had to really make an effort to be heard because the electronic band hired to play after dinner was already testing its equipment. "I hope you invited all the immediate neighbors, so they won't complain about the racket. You can bet the dancing will not end

VANGIE'S/ E2

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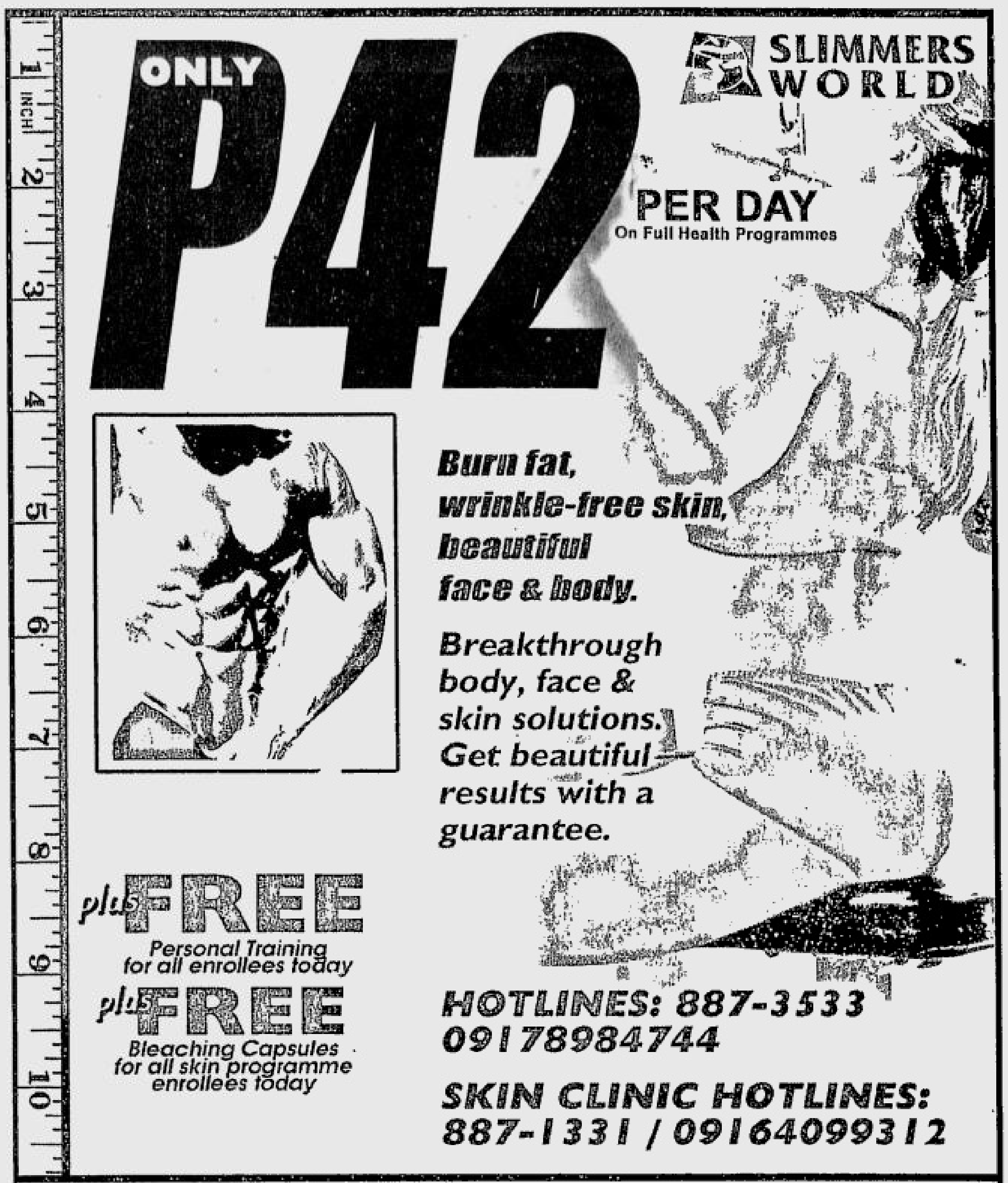
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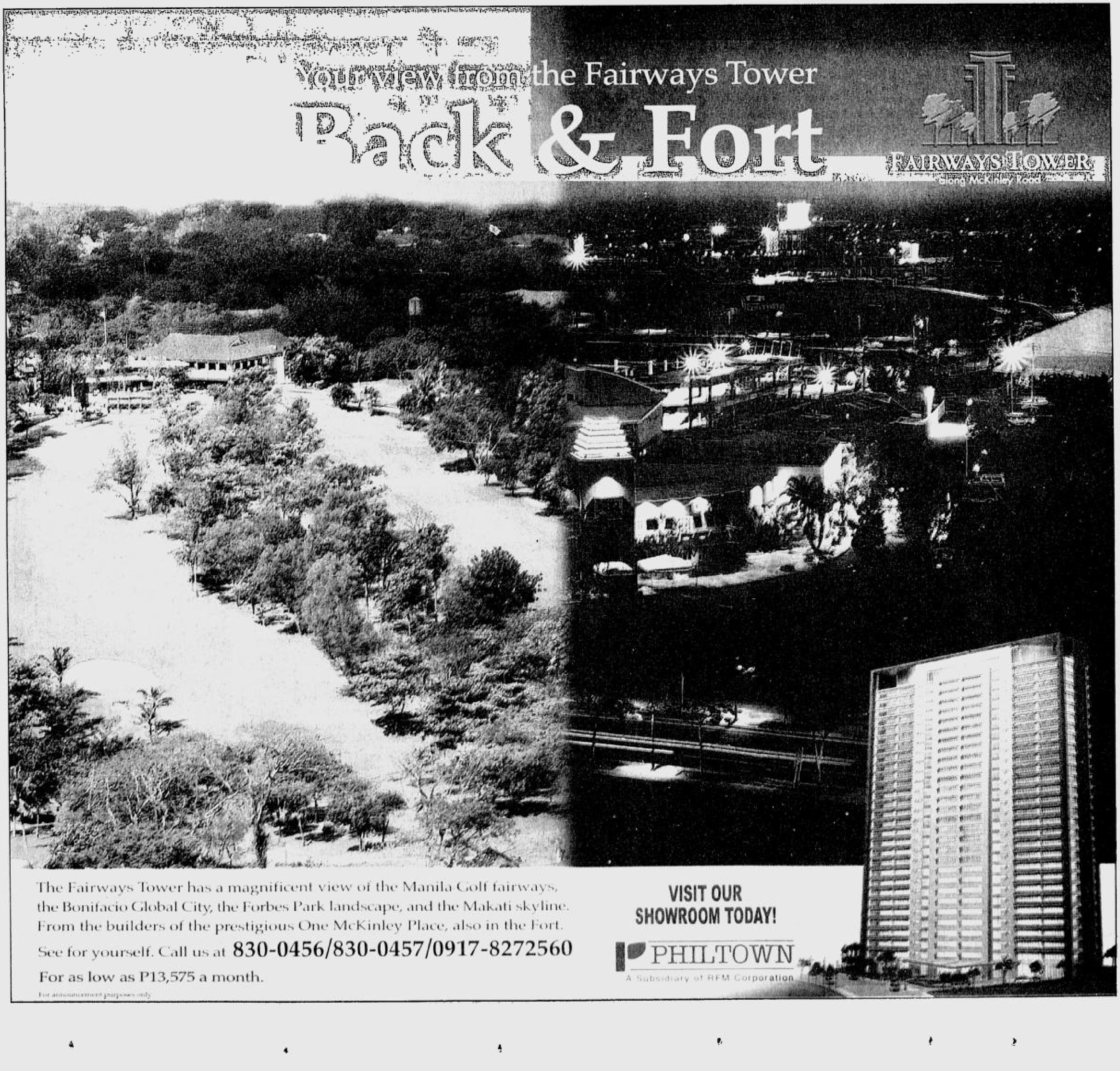
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Wrapped up surprises

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria

IT is always a challenge to add an element of fun to the dishes we prepare every single day. Here we have the classic Cabbage Rolls, a recipe that will make your kids like cabbage, as it is presented with meat and tomato sauce, a kid-friendly combination. We also have the *lumpiang ubod* all wrapped up in the traditional fresh *lumpia* wrapper and served with *paalat* (sauce), peanuts and garlic. Our third is a whole fish completely encased in rock salt, an exotic and unique recipe that will surely spark interesting conversation.

Surprise family and friends with these wrapped up delights to brighten up the rainy days ahead. From my kitchen to yours.

Simplified Cabbage Rolls

1 whole head of cabbage
Stuffing:
¼ kg ground beef
¼ kg ground pork
½ c chopped spring onions
½ c chopped carrots
1 c cubed cream cheese
salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp dried basil leaves
Tomato Sauce:
¼ c olive oil
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
3 cans tomato sauce (200 g each)
salt and pepper to taste
1 piece bay leaf (laurel)
1 tbsp worcestershire sauce
½ c water
Topping:
grated cheddar cheese

Half-fill a stockpot with water. Cover and place over medium heat. Allow to boil. Lower the head of the cabbage in the water. Allow to boil again until the outer leaves become somewhat translucent. Remove the cabbage from the water and carefully peel off the outer leaves. Return the cabbage to the water and again wait for the outer leaves to become translucent. Repeat the process until you have enough cabbage leaves for wrapping.

To prepare the filling, combine the mixture in a large mixing bowl. Mix until well blended.

Divide the mixture into equal portions depending on the amount of leaves that were prepared. Add a portion of the meat mixture to a cabbage leaf and enclose completely. Secure with wooden toothpicks. Continue with this procedure with the rest of the ingredients.

To prepare the sauce sauté the garlic and the onions in olive oil. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Let simmer for 5 to 10 minutes. Discard the bay leaf.

Arrange the assembled rolls in the sauce. Simmer for 20 to 25 minutes more. Transfer to a serving dish and top with grated cheese.

Whole Fish Baked in Salt

1 whole fish (max of 2 kg), cleaned but with scales intact (use *mameng*, *apahap*, *tilapia* or *lapu lapu*)
¼ c *calamansi* juice
ground black pepper to taste
2 kg rock salt
½ c egg whites
Basic Vinaigrette:
1 tbsp vinegar (any kind)
¼ c corn or olive oil
salt and pepper to taste
Preheat the oven to 425° F

Clean the fish well leaving the scales intact. Marinate the fish in *calamansi* and pepper for 15 minutes.

In a large mixing bowl combine the rock salt and the egg whites. Transfer half of the mixture to an ovenproof dish. Place the fish on top of the salt. Cover the fish with the remaining salt.

Bake for at least 25 minutes or until the salt is solid hard. Break the salt covering with a knife or the back of a spoon and remove the fish. Transfer to a platter and serve with your favorite vinaigrette.

Lumpiang Ubod Ni Lola

Ubod Filling:
¼ c corn oil
1 tbsp pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
¼ kg shrimps, peeled and chopped
½ kg *ubod* sliced into strips
½ c water
freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 tbsp fish sauce (*patis*)
Sauce:
½ c dark brown sugar, packed
1 ½ tsp soy sauce
1 ½ tsp oyster sauce
2 c water
¼ c cornstarch
Assembly:
fresh *lumpia* wrappers
native lettuce
spring onions
Garnishing:
chopped fried skinless peanuts
bottled fried garlic chips
sprigs of *kinchay* or *wansoy*

Heat up the corn oil in a wok. Sauté the garlic and the onions until the onions are limp.

Add the shrimps and sauté until they change color. Pour in the *ubod* and sauté until blended. Pour in the water and the seasonings. Allow to boil, then simmer until the *ubod* is tender. Let cool thoroughly before using. Drain well and use the liquid as part of the water for the sauce.

To prepare the sauce, combine the ingredients in a saucepan. Place over low heat and stir continuously until thick. Set aside.

To assemble, brush the surface of the *lumpia* wrapper with the prepared sauce. Place an adequate amount of filling in the center of the wrapper forming a slender log. Top with a stalk or 2 of spring onions and a piece of native lettuce making sure that both the onions and the lettuce extend beyond the edge of one side of the wrapper. Roll tightly. Transfer to a platter and top with several spoonfuls of the prepared sauce. Sprinkle with peanuts, garlic and garnish with *wansoy/kinchay*.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 721-7735.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Toasted bread Butter, fruit jam and cheese spread Vienna sausage Cereal and milk Coffee, fruit juice or ice tea	Clear soup Simplified cabbage rolls *Pandan* rice Canned fruit cocktail with ice	Cucumber salad Chicken and pork *adobo* with quail eggs and garlic Rice *Guyabano*
TUESDAY	*Adobo* flakes from leftover *adobo* Scrambled egg *Pandesal* Coffee or hot chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	Instant hot and sour soup *Pancit canton* Sweet and sour tofu with veggies Almond jelly	*Halaan* soup *Inihaw na bangus* stuffed with tomatoes and onions Rice *Mais con hielo*
WEDNESDAY	Garlic rice Fried *daing na bangus* Coffee or hot chocolate Bananas	Coleslaw Breaded pork chop Buttered rice with corn and peas Papaya shake	Roast chicken Vegetable chopsuey Rice Fruit salad
THURSDAY	Hotcake with syrup and butter Ham or hotdog Coffee, hot chocolate or ice tea	Macaroni soup Tossed green salad Pasta with meat sauce Garlic bread Mocha ice cream	*Lumpiang ubod* Pork steak Rice *Maja mais*
FRIDAY	Toasted bread Corned beef omelet Cheddar cheese and butter Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	*Ampalaya* salad *Paksiw na isda* Rice *Mangosteen and rambutan*	Potato salad Roast beef *Crema de fruta*
SATURDAY	Garlic rice *Alaminos longganiza* Salted eggs and tomatoes Coffee or hot chocolate Pineapple	Clear soup *Menudo* Rice *Buko* gelatin	Russian salad Whole fish baked in salt Baked chicken with 40 cloves of garlic Angel hair pasta with pesto sauce Cheesecake
SUNDAY	*Champorado* Fried *tawilis* Fresh fruit cocktail	*Sopa de ajo* Tossed green salad with thousand island dressing *Paella valenciana* *Brazo de mercedes*	Instant ham and corn soup *Siomai* Steamed fish Steamed baby *bok choy* in oyster sauce Fresh fruit platter

Vangie's American pig

From page E1

by midnight. I noticed your menu is all French classic. You are tiring yourself out with all those cream-enhanced veloutes and piped mashed potato trimmings. Let me tell you about Vangie's debut in America 50 years ago."

"Is that Vangie Canonizado, now Mrs. Buell? I met her at the Sangandaan 2003 international conference on arts and media in Philippine-American Relations chaired by Nicanor Tiongson last July. She's an Events Planning Consultant at University of California in Berkeley."

"That's right," said Sandok. "Vangie shared excerpts from her autobiography about how Filipino culture survived in the USA. She and her dad shopped all day to find the right outfit for her coming-out party. It was her first black dress, a symbol she had indeed become a young lady. Her father had been a chef for Admiral Chester Nimitz during part of his career and wanted to assure a fabulous culinary event.

"The family designed a menu featuring typical Philippine fiesta foods along with her father's favorite American dishes: Roast Pig in banana leaves decorated with an apple in its mouth and a crown of orchids; chicken *adobo*; fried chicken; potato salad decorated with hard-boiled eggs sculpted into flowers; lumpia; *pansit* that symbolizes long-life because of its long noodles; a whole baked salmon decorated with olives to recreate fish scales, served on a bed of watercress and decorated with vegetables made to look like roses; roast duck; vegetables like snow peas, green beans, spinach, bean sprouts, bokchoy, broccoli and green peppers sauted with meat and fish; bico, a rice cake sweetened with coconut and brown sugar; and a birthday cake with pineapple filling.

"And... I almost forgot... tomatoes freshly harvested by the *manongs* from nearby farms."

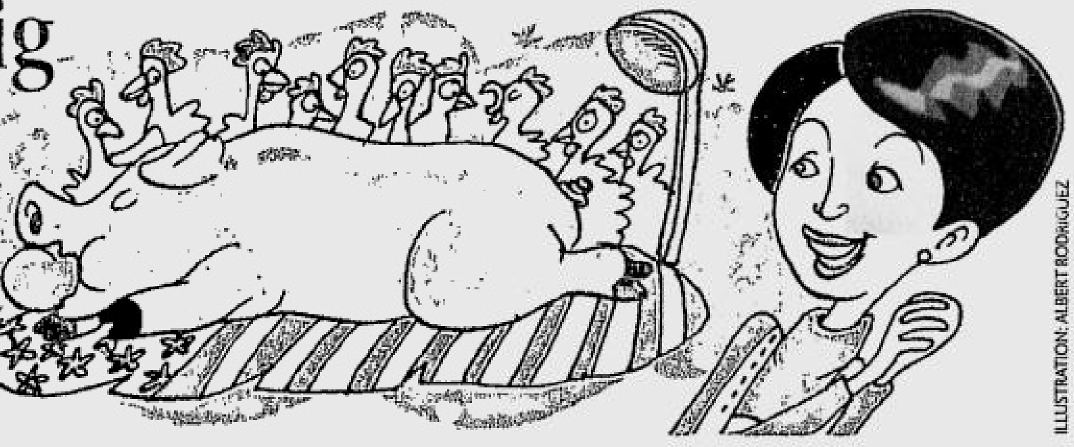

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The 'manongs'

"Filipino farm workers—the *manongs*—had a tough life. They experienced a lot of racial discrimination before and even after World War II," said TJC. "My mother Ruth remembers the signs: 'No dogs and Filipinos' while she was growing up in California. Filipinos, like immigrant Chinese and other people of color—even if they were professionals—had to really prove their merit in a hostile environment. The *manongs* were not allowed to marry by law. They lived a lonely existence."

"Vangie said that a few days before her party, Manong Tommy—a worker in his 50s who was Ilocano like her father—arrived unexpectedly one morning dressed in a flashy sharkskin suit with a bright red bow tie, wide red suspenders, a bright red hankie draped over his breast pocket, rhinestone cufflinks and a diamond ring on his pinkie. His shiny black hair was slicked down with Dixie Peach pomade. Vangie and her sister had a hard time stemming their giggles because of his appearance," Sandok continued.

"He was extremely nervous, stammering, sweating at the brow. Tommy kept glancing at Vangie. Finally he built up enough courage to ask her father for Vangie's hand in marriage. 'And as a symbol of my love for her, I have 25 chickens and a pig for her birthday party to seal our engagement,' Manong Tommy said. The pig in all its glory and the chickens had indeed been stuffed into his old Model T.

'That old man wants to trade you for a bunch of dead animals,' said Sistie to her sister.

"The protective father who expected his daughter to finish university studies flew into a rage. 'I have enough food for the feast. This is America, not the Philippines!' he shouted, swearing as Tommy ran off."

"Poor Tommy," said TJC.

"That's exactly how Vangie and her sister felt. Their grandmother managed to calm down her son. Tommy was invited to the debut but warned to stay far away from debutante and father. Eventually he was welcomed back into the fold since Filipinos had to really stick together," said Sandok.

"Vangie's pig story is a beloved gem in the family's history. When Nikki, her daugther, was engaged to be married, her fiancé—in an intimate gesture—made sure there were 25 chickens and a roasted pig on the wedding buffet aside from special Italian dishes from the groom's heritage. I hope Vangie's stories see/print soon," said Sandok.

"Now where are your *lechon* and 25 chickens?" he asked TJC, who was painstakingly piping festoons on the four-tier cake as she kept an eye on the filet baking that she'd turn into Boeuf Richelieu with truffles and Madiera. "*C'est la vie!* I know you enjoy pulling out your Cordon Bleu recipes once in a while, but I'd have stuck to *biko*," he whispered under his breath, making sure his hassled friend could not hear him.

Next: Saint Nic's Cookies

Organize your ref's contents

KEEP your refrigerator clean inside and out. Just follow these simple steps from Glad, a brand of kitchen wraps and bags.

Prevent foul-smelling air from polluting your refrigerator by keeping an open box of baking soda inside the appliance. Replace the box every three months. Keep the surface clean. Make sure the exterior is clean by wiping the surface with a damp cloth or a detergent solution to remove ugly spots and spills. Remember to dry the surface after cleaning. Stick a shopping list on the refrigerator door to reduce emergency trips to the store or grocery. Keep the interior clean.

Clean the refrigerator compartment regularly even without defrosting. Turn the appliance off and unplug before starting the job. Use a solution of baking soda and warm water; dislodge removable shelves, then wash properly and dry. Keep a well-stocked refrigerator but don't overload it to make sure cool air circulates properly.

Cramming food inside the fridge will overwork the appliance and cause food to spoil quickly. If you have leftover fruits, wrap them in a Glad Cling Wrap so they'll stay fresh and flavorful. Dry food items like leftovers can be kept in a Glad Zipper Storage Bag to maximize space.

Instead of bulky containers, use Glad Zipper Storage Bag and Glad Zipper Freezer Bags for storing food items. Glad Zipper Storage Bags are suitable for protecting food and keeping fruits and vegetables fresh longer. Glad Zipper Freezer Bags can be used to store raw meats, maintain the freshness of unbaked cookie dough, and preserve even unused egg yolks and excess egg whites in the freezer. Both bags have a yellow-and-blue-make-green seal, which tells you that the bag is shut tight. Glad Zipper Freezer Bags have a write-on strip for easy labeling. Glad Zipper Freezer and Zipper Storage Bags apply the Fresh Protect Technology.

Cooking classes at five-star hotel

MAKATI Shangri-La Manila's Culinary Academy successfully launched the 1st cooking class series early this year. The next cooking class series is scheduled on Saturday, Aug. 16.

The hotel's top chefs, composed of executive chef Christopher Romine, executive sous chef Gene del Prado and executive pastry chef Xavier Castello, will do cooking demonstrations of popular Thai dishes such as the spicy soup dish Tom Yam Goong, Thai Green Chicken Curry for the main entrée and the delightful Mango and Sticky Rice for dessert.

The second class is scheduled on Sept. 13 where the featured chefs will demonstrate savory Chinese dishes from Shang Palace. The last class will be held on Oct. 18 to showcase Japanese dishes from Inagiku.

This activity is open to the public and priced at P1,350 net per class. Call Makati Shangri-La's Restaurant Reservations and Information Center at 8400884 or 8138888 extension 7588/7599.

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Speeding up orders

DINING OUT

LUK YUEN has been known for its steaming hot congees, dimsum, rice toppings, noodles and dumplings. Luk Yuen continues to concoct rich flavored dishes to please finicky eaters. But aside from expanding its food choices, Luk Yuen has installed a Micros-Fidelio point-of-sales system to further speed up its service.

According to Celia Angeles, restaurant administrator, the Micros-Fidelio point-of-sales system has been very efficient and convenient. "Our service has been greatly enhanced by the system. Back then, our waiters used to go through four steps before the orders are served. But now using Micros-Fidelio, we've been able to trim that down to just one step so the food is served hot and fresh in just a few minutes."

Luk Yuen has branches at Greenbelt, Glorietta II, Greenhills Shopping Center, Cash & Carry, SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Paparazzi presents "Prized Porcini" on Aug. 15-31. It will offer porcini salad with almond and parmesan cheese, potatoes and porcini gnocchi with crispy duck confit, veal tenderloin in porcini crust with asparagus carpaccio, red mullet and porcino compote with tomato and chicken liver.

Summer Palace presents the Mid Autumn Festival on Aug. 27-Sept. 11. Mooncakes filled with lotus seed paste and salted egg yolk in the center, black bean and mixed nuts are featured. Call 6338888.

TWIST at Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC features marinated lamb cutlet in a potato crust and served with sweet chili and rosemary jus, deep-fried tuna tail with homemade sauces, sauteed shrimps in Southeast Asian chili and coconut milk sauce, cubed smoked milkfish, potatoes and lettuce with mustard and horseradish dressing. Call 4211822/4211823.

PAN PACIFIC Manila's Pacific Lounge and Lobby Lounge present Mango Tart, a nutty puff pastry dough filled with caramel and cream topped with slices of ripe mango. Call 5360788.

THE SULO Hotel's Teppanyaki Restaurant and Sushi Bar will hold Back-to-Back promo starting Aug. 15. Every guest who consumes P1,500 worth of food and beverage on his first visit gets a voucher worth P250 rebate for his next visit. Call 9245051 to 71.

GLORIA MARIS at Greenbelt 2 in Makati presents its special lunch set menu for this month prepared by its Hong Kong chef, Henry Ho. A set menu for two persons includes shredded fishlip soup, garlic chicken, steamed fish fillet with garlic, prawns with glutinous rice in basket, mango sago and butchi for P600.

A set menu for four includes seafood spinach soup, steamed prawns with garlic, sweet and sour fish fillet, steamed mashed beancurd with egg white, lemon chicken, garlic fried rice, mango and butchi for P1,180.

For a group of six, assorted cold cuts, hot chicken and prawn salad, shredded fishlip soup, patatim, gindara with Japanese sauce, roasted duck, steamed crab, yang chow fried rice, butchi and mango sago for P2,700. Call 7574171 and 7574174.

FIGARO Coffee Company offers Figaro's Chilly Latte, a flavored espresso, chilled milk and crushed ice topped with whipped milk. It's available in butterscotch, hazelnut and vanilla nut flavors.

Learn to cook specialty dishes in one day

MAYA Kitchen offers One-Day Special and Certificate Courses for this month.

Make every event a party to remember by learning how to prepare recipes like Morcon, Galantina, Soy Chicken, Paella, Baked Macaroni, Roast Pork and Buko-Pandan. Enroll in Catering Dishes on Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Learn Baking with Institutional Mixes, which is also slated on the same day, from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Cake Decorating (basic), scheduled on Aug. 16, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., features cake decorating, coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing) basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif with free decorating tips.

Also offered are Cooking I (basic) on Aug. 19-22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Messmen, stewards and beginners will learn the basics of food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes, techniques of de-boning chicken and fish, basic garnishing, actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes.

Cooking II (comprehensive cooking) will be held also on the same day, 1:30-5 p.m.

Visit Maya Kitchen from Tuesday to Friday at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave., (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

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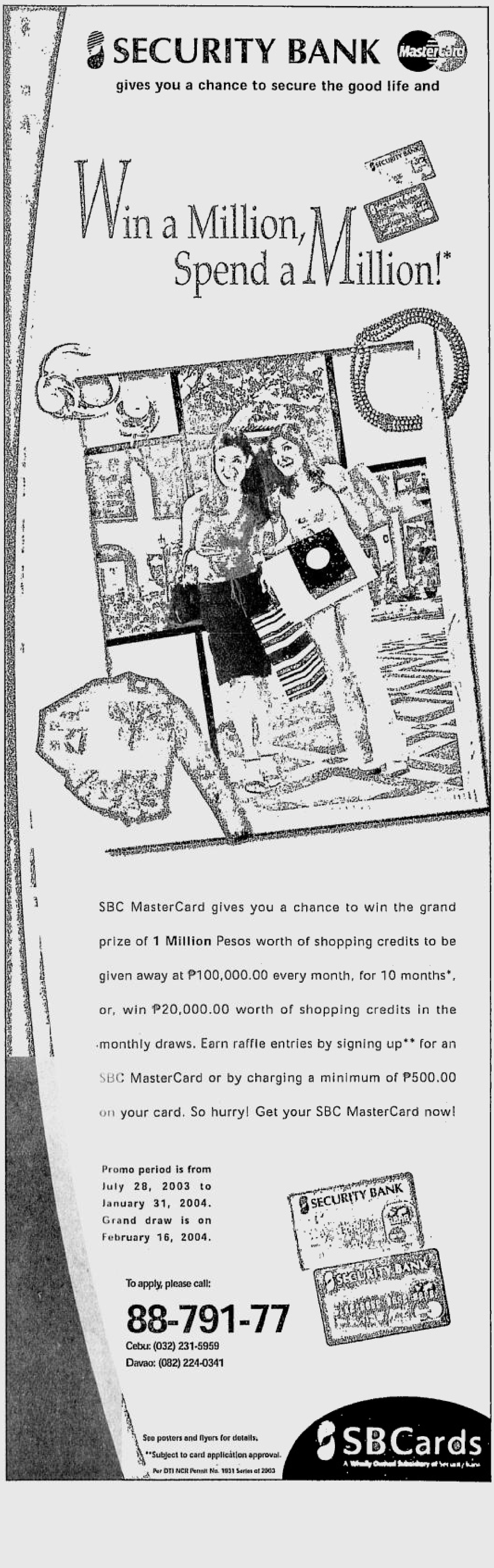

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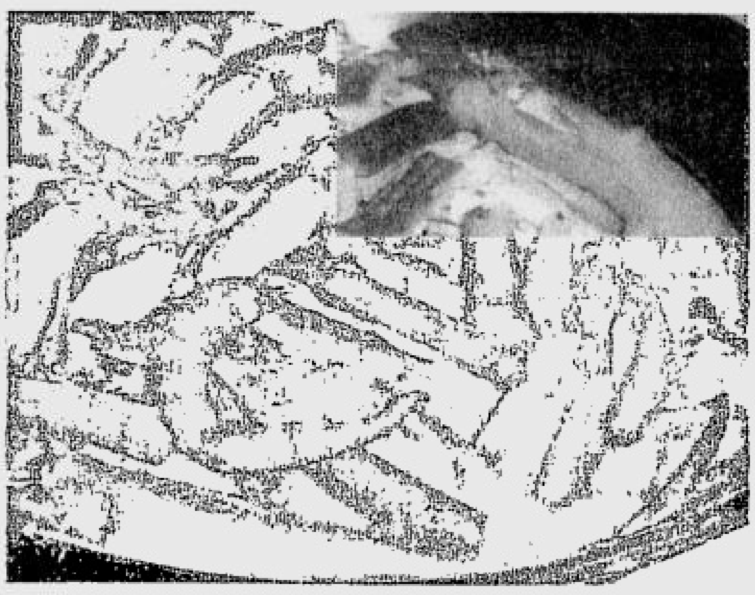
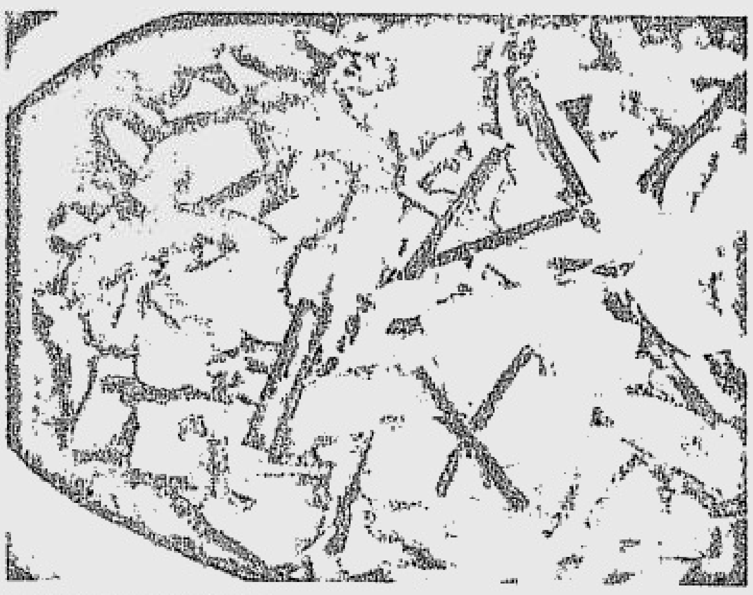


PAKSIW Capelin



ENSALADANG Langka

Celebrating 16 years of buffet bonanza

THE PEOPLE'S Choice awardee for top specialty restaurant for 2003, Cabalen, marks its anniversary this year with its "16th Year Family Showcase Bonanza," a tie-up promo with Nestlé Philippines featuring its Nestea Iced tea and Nestlé Lemonade and Western Marketing, distributor of Philips brand of appliances.

Avail of one buffet and one bottomless Nestea/Lemonade at any Cabalen restaurant until Sept. 10 and automatically get a raffle coupon. Scratch the silver panel and get a chance to win instantly Cabalen umbrella, *bagoong*, chili sauce or gift certificate worth P249. You can also use the coupon as entry to a grand raffle draw on Oct. 13. The more coupons you have, the better chances of winning these fabulous prizes.

First prize is an entertainment showcase consisting of Philips 29" colored TV, home theater system and component. Second prize is a computer showcase with modem and printer, and third prize, a kitchen showcase consisting of a 6 cu ft. refrigerator, rice cooker, turbo broiler, two-burner gas stove and microwave oven. There will also be 16 consolation prizes of Nestlé gift packs worth P500 each.

For its anniversary, Cabalen will feature new specialty dishes in the buffet such as Ensaladang Langka, Ginataang Capelin, Paksiw na Capelin, Kinunot na Pagi and Tortang Halaan. The new Cabalen Chicken Mami will be included in the *merienda* buffet.

Cabalen has 10 branches: West Ave., QC; SM Megamall; Glorietta 3 Ayala Center; Robinsons Place Manila; Katipunan, Blueridge, QC; SM North Edsa; SM City Manila, Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Harrison Village Square.

Cabalen also caters and has function rooms for private gatherings. Special packages are available to suit every budget (call 4219220/9135522).

Visit www.cabalen.com.ph. Call 9135528/9111584.

Tortang Halaan

1 kg *halaan*, unshelled, finely chopped
2 pcs egg, slightly beaten
2 tbsps oil
1 head garlic, crushed
1 pc medium onion, chopped
4 pcs tomatoes, chopped
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp ground black pepper
1 c cooking oil for frying
banana leaves

Thaw and wash *halaan* meat, chop finely and set aside. Slightly beat the eggs, set aside. Crush and mince garlic. Peel and chop onions. Wash and chop tomatoes. Set aside. Cut banana leaves into 7 x 2" strips. Roll over heat to soften.

In a saucepan, heat oil, saute garlic until golden brown. Add onions and tomatoes until soft. Add chopped *halaan* and season with salt and pepper, stir. Saute for three minutes or until *halaan* is cooked. Remove from fire, let it cool. Add beaten egg.

Wrap 25 g of sauteed mixture in the center of two banana leaf strips arranged like a cross, one horizontally and the other diagonally on top. Do the same for the rest of the mixture.

Heat oil in frying pan. Fry each wrapped sauteed *halaan* mixture for about five minutes. Drain excess oil. Serve.

Ensaladang Langka

½ kg unripe jackfruit, peeled, sliced
1 pc onion, sliced
5 pcs tomatoes, seedless strips
1 tbsp ginger, strips
2 ½ tbsp *calamansi* juice
1 tbsp white sugar
1 cup coconut cream
1 pc *labuyo*, minced
15 g spring onions, 1" sliced
1 tsp salt

Wash and peel unripe jackfruit. Boil jackfruit in slightly salted water until tender. Cool and discard the hard portion and seeds. Slice thinly. Put in a container and combine with the next three ingredients. Chill.

In a bowl, combine the rest of the ingredients. Toss with the jackfruit mixture. Garnish with spring onions. Best serve when chilled.

Ginataang Capelin

1 kg capelin
55 g ginger strips
½ c vinegar
2 ½ c coconut cream
1 tbsp salt
3 pcs *sili sigang*
½ tsp white sugar

Thaw, remove gills and entrails of capelin. Wash thoroughly and drain. Wash and peel ginger, slice into strips. Wash *sili sigang* and slice.

In a wok, arrange all capelin, add vinegar, ginger, *sili sigang* and white sugar. Bring to a boil for three minutes or until vinegar is cooked and sauce is slightly dry. Add coconut milk. In a low fire, let it simmer until fish is cooked.

Remove fire and serve.

Paksiw Capelin

1 kg capelin
1 c vinegar
3 c water
¼ c ginger, sliced thinly
5 pcs green hot pepper, sliced
1 tbsp salt
100 g long *ampalaya*, cut to 2" strips
100 g eggplant, cut to 2" strips

Thaw, remove gills and entrails of capelin. Wash thoroughly, drain. Peel and slice ginger thinly. Wash and slice *sili* long. Set aside.

Wash and slice *ampalaya* horizontally, remove seeds and slice into medium strips. Wash and slice eggplant into medium strips.

In a clean wok, combine capelin, *sili* long, ginger, salt, *ampalaya*, *talong*, vinegar and water. Cover and bring to a boil for 3 minutes. Reduce fire, and allow to simmer until fish and vinegar are totally cooked. Serve.

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